Hafa Adai!

CNMI's Got Talent now accepting auditions. PAGE 3

Make-A-Wish fundraiser generates over $37K. PAGE 9

75¢

Saipan Tribune

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NEW CITIZENS FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The 25 new U.S. citizens wave U.S. flaglets and show off their certificates as they pose with U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield, and Immigration Services officer Shelia Kelty at a naturalization ceremony at the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday. See story on Page 2

DPS oversight hearing sought

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Sen. Paul Mangloña (Ind-Rota) has urged both House of Representatives and Senate committees handling the judicial and governmental operations to conduct a legislative oversight on the Department of Public Safety.

In a letter dated Nov. 7, 2017, Mangloña told the committees that the recent spate of unsolved crimes, missing persons, and rampant drug use necessitates the oversight hearing to find out what DPS is up to.

Mangloña said that DPS has

See DPS on Page 4

'Unfair to compare CHCC to Guam'

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña said it's unfair for the Legislature to keep comparing the Commonwealth Health Center to the Guam Memorial Hospital in terms of its fees and rates.

Unlike the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, which runs the hospital in Guam, CHCC was only appropriated a measly $708,311 for fiscal year 2018. In contrast, the Guam Memorial Hospital Au-

See UNFAIR on Page 4

Torres, IPI exec say photo op is just that

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, and an IPI executive have denied any hanky-panky related to an old photo with a federal detainee, after a photo of the three circulated in social media yesterday.

Federal detainee Sen Sun,

See TORRES on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This photo, which reportedly shows Sen Sun, far left, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, second from right, and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC. executive Geri Dela Cruz posing at meeting about a proposed Saipan Goddess Project planned for the top of Mt Tapochau, was circulating yesterday on social media.

IN BIRTH TOURISM BUSINESS CASE

Conflicts roil Sun's financial statements

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

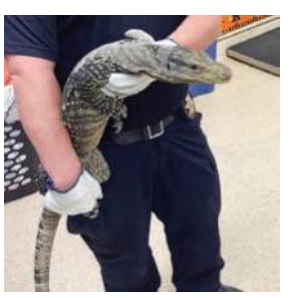
U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy expressed disappointment yesterday with the inconsistencies in the statements given to the U.S. Probation Office about the financial background of Sen Sun.

Sun, an alleged overstaying Chinese tourist, was in-

See SUN'S on Page 4

INSIDE

WORLD
A U.K. official quits over unauthorized meetings with Israeli politicians.
PAGE 25



LIFE & STYLE
A lizard that can grow to be 8 feet long has been found in Southern California.
PAGE 26

SCIENCE & TECH
Uber reaches for the skies with a plan for sleek flying taxicabs.
PAGE 27

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Local

25 take oath as US citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-five persons from five countries took their oaths yesterday as new U.S. citizens during a naturalization ceremony at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Originally from the Philippines, China, Russia, Jamaica, and South Korea, the new citizens were welcomed yesterday to the ranks of "American citizens" by Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Chatfield, who served as the guest speaker.

For Guiyue Jin Reyes, 35, it took all of 16 years for her to get to that point. Originally from China, Reyes first arrived on Saipan in April 2001 to work as a warehouse associate at a garment factory. She got married here and she and her husband now have four children.

She didn't think so much about the benefits afforded U.S. citizens but more about having the same status as her family. "It's about time for me to change my citizenship," she said.

Reyes currently works as a customer service associate at ABC Store.

Another new U.S. citizen, Svetlana V. Hunter, 29, was inspired by Chatfield's speech at the ceremony.

"I think the whole ceremony just made me feel even more excited about my new journey," she said.

From Russia, Hunter moved to New York City six years ago, then came to Saipan in September 2013. She eventually decided to stay here and got married in December 2013.

Chavel T. Green, a native of Jamaica, waited five years to obtain her citizenship. Her daughter, who is in Florida, petitioned her.

"I am very elated. I am proud to be a U.S. citizen," said Green. "It's really a good feeling."

Green arrived on Saipan in August 2012 to work at the Northern Marianas College.

Elena P. Uberita, 72, a native of San Fernando, La Union, arrived on Saipan in 2015. Before coming here, she spent three years in Illinois. Her daughter petitioned her and her 67-year-old husband, Crisanto A. Uberita.

Crisanto Uberita, an accountant, used to work on Saipan so they decided to stay on the island.

Chatfield thanked U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona for giving her the opportunity to be one of the first to greet the group as "my fellow Americans."

Chatfield said she looks at all of the new citizens with great pride.

"Regardless of your point of origin, background, or lifestyle, you have all made the same decision: to raise your right hand and pledge allegiance to the United States of America," she said.

Chatfield said it is both a beautiful and inspiring sight to see this group of dedicated people.

"Being an American is synonymous with being a free

See OATH on Page 4

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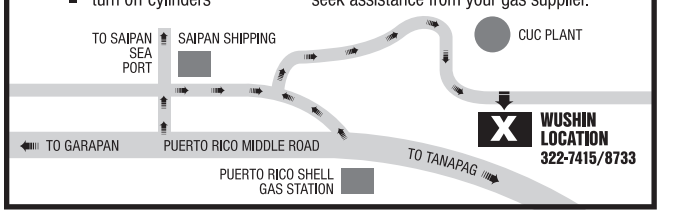

CNMI's Got Talent now accepting auditions

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

With over $2,000 up for grabs for the grand winner, this year's edition of CNMI's Got Talent is now open for auditions.

The contest, which Bridge Capital LLC launched seven years ago, has become a standard for performances on island and usually draws a glittering array of performers.

According to Bridge Capital chief operating officer Tucker Baldwin, this year's competition will be held on Dec. 20 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall and will showcase individual performers, group performers, and duos.

The event is completely funded by Bridge Capital, with the intent of promoting talent in the Commonwealth. "We want artists to have a chance to show off their talents," said Baldwin.

CNMI's Got Talent is open to all performing artists in the CNMI.

The last day to submit audition pieces will be on Nov. 30. Auditions are open to everyone of all ages who reside in the Commonwealth.

Competitors are eligible to win over $10,000 worth of prizes. Prizes will be distributed to four runner-ups and one grand winner.

According to Baldwin, the grand winner will be awarded $2,500 and the four runner-ups will receive cash prizes that range from $500 to $2,500.

A Governor's Choice Award will also be presented to the performing artist of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' choice. The award will also be funded by Bridge Capital and will be worth $1,500.

"Gov. Torres will be one of the judges this year and the governor has the right to present his own special award," said Baldwin.

The grand winner will also be promoted by the Bridge Capital.

For information on the process to audition, visit the Bridge Capital website at www.cnmisgottalent.com.

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Jurors start deliberations in Flores' lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Federal jurors started deliberating yesterday afternoon in the lawsuit filed by Derron Gerard Flores against the MUFG Union Bank over a $200,000 time certificate of deposit that his late father purchased in 1993.

The jurors will continue their deliberations on Monday.

At yesterday's closing arguments, attorney Juan T. Lizama, counsel for Flores, blamed Union Bank for its "own negligence" in its records keeping system for the fiasco.

Lizama said that Donald G. Flores, a former Saipan mayor, cashed a check payment in the amount of $280,000 for land lease, and put in $200,000 to purchase TCD savings for 32 days from then-Union Bank Saipan branch in October 1993 and took the remaining $80,000 cash.

Lizama said that Donald Flores could not find the TCD original certificate and was told by the bank that all his bank records were gone and missing.

In March 2008, Donald's wife, Cecilia, found the TCD's original certificate. Donald then presented the original certificate to Union Bank, but the bank refused to cash the TCD.

"A TCD original certificate has no authority or power to redeem one's own money in a bank?" asked Lizama, who pointed out that the bank has a policy of retaining records for seven and half years.

September 1993 to March 1999 is only five and a half years, he added.

"Therefore, if any record existed from the beginning, the bank should have all of Donald Flores' TCD records at his visit in 1999!" the lawyer pointed out.

Attorney Sean Frink, counsel for Union Bank, said in his closing arguments that Lizama attempts to show that something happened in 1999 with Donald Flores' visit to the bank.

Frink said then-Union Bank employee Lourdes S. Deleon Guerrero testified that she did not recall Donald making such a visit with the bank.

"Look at the documents, the details are telling," Frink told the jurors.

Frink also noted their stipulation that states that on Sept. 22, 2008, Union Bank, through its office in California, responded that it had no record of the TCD and thus could not redeem it.

SUN'S

From Page 1

dicted for allegedly operating an unlicensed business that offered trip packages to the CNMI for pregnant Chinese women seeking to give birth here.

After listening to U.S. Probation officer Margarita Wonenberg's report on Sun's financial background, Kennedy said it appears to her that Sun can hire his own attorney.

Kennedy said she is leaning toward not providing a court-appointed counsel for Sun, but she directed court-appointed counsel Benjamin Petersburg to remain as counsel for Sun while his financial background is being assessed.

Kennedy granted Petersburg's request to continue the detention hearing as they just found a possible third-party custodian for Sun.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, counsel for the U.S. government, did not object to the continuance.

The detention hearing will resume on Nov. 15, at 2:30pm.

U.S. Probation officer Wonenberg told the court that she interviewed Sun to clarify his financial background and that he told her that he has no job and that his parents have been paying for his house at $2,800 a month and a vehicle for $1,000 a month. Sun's parents, however, denied these, Wonenberg said.

The probation officer said that Sun claimed that his parents have $100,000 in China but the parents, Wonenberg said, stated that the amount is only 100,000 *renmimbi* or about $50,000.

Wonenberg said a car repair shop owner stated that Sun put up $20,000 cash as downpayment for a car loan and has been paying her $1,000 a month for the loan. The car loan was apparently under the shop owner's name.

The indictment charged Sun with harboring illegal aliens, unlawfully employing aliens, and money laundering.

Sun allegedly charged each client upwards of $15,000 for services that include providing round-the-clock caregivers who were unauthorized to work.

UNFAIR

From Page 1

thority gets $40 million every year from the U.S. territorial government, according to her.

Muña made these comments after a joint committee meeting of both the House of Representatives and Senate health and welfare committees Wednesday on Capital Hill, wherein some members of the Legislature kept comparing CHCC's situation with Guam.

"We have no leverage compared to Guam. They keep comparing us to Guam but, when you use that as basis, that would be unfair to this community. Guam gets appropriation, has a funded medical indigent program, and Guam has more Medicaid funding than we do. There are a lot of differences," she said.

"Guam has basically about $40 million of appropriation from the government itself. That is not even questionable. Last year alone, we have $13 million of uncompensated care cost based on our bills," added Muña.

Uncompensated care is healthcare given to people who cannot afford to pay.

Muña also went on to defend CHCC's planned increase in rates vis-à-vis the paltry $708,311 budget the Legislature appropriated it for fiscal year 2018.

"When we didn't get the appropriation that we asked for, we had two ways to generate our own funds. It was either to take the market base rate or take the cost-to-charges ratio."

"Using the market base rate was ideal as this is the rate that even Medicaid and Medicare use as part of their payments. However, when it came to this particular situation, where we have a huge amount of uncompensated care, we decided that cost-to-charges ratio would be more effective rather than the market base rate because the economy is doing great but is that reflective of the services here at CHCC? Obviously not," she added.

Muña said that when they calculated cost-to-charge ratio and thinking that they needed to get back they lost, adding $2,266 on top of the current room rates was inevitable.

"An ICU room cost could've been over $4,000 if $2,266 was applied but we became conservative by making it $4,000 flat and we rounded off in certain areas," she said.

"We didn't add $2,266 in every single room. We did increase based on that but we decided not to go over it. We have that rate base and we could've gone over that rate but we chose to be conservative and never went over," Muña added.

Another discussion that was brought up during the joint session was for CHCC to consider privatization.

"One member of the Legislature mentioned 'privatization.' When you talk about privatization, you talk about private businesses coming into partnership with CHCC. But the reality is that one of the questions that these private entities will ask is, 'Who is going to pay for the people that cannot pay? We need to make a profit too,'" she said.

Muña said there have been some proposals in the past about privatization, but added that what is being talked about here is basic services, which is healthcare.

"Why is that a priority for you to give someone the opportunity to profit when this is your business? This belongs to the people. You cannot expect the private business to take care of the indigent population," she said.

Muña said if the CNMI government will give CHCC the money to avoid this gap, the proposed increase in room rates can be delayed or be put it off.

"We are not making a profit here. We are just making services available for everybody. The cost that we came up with was not arbitrarily done. It was done by looking at the uncompensated cost because that's the one that is hitting us the most," she said.

"We know what the people want.We are willing to do it but how are we going to do it if we are left without the money?" Muña asked.

She reiterated that the hospital is still willing to hear what the community has to say about the rate increases.

"People still have an opportunity to give their comments on the rates. I've seen people complain about the rates but it hasn't even affected them. We want to know how it has affected you or how do you think it will affect you. Right now, CHCC remains and will always be available to the people," said Muña.

DPS

From Page 1

failed to communicate with victims of crimes, which he said is unacceptable because DPS has the "critical role of protecting people and ensuring people's safety."

"Victims of criminal activities are complaining that their cases have not been solved and they haven't received any information or updates from DPS," he said.

Manglona's letter was addressed to House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Rota) and Senate Judiciary, Government, and Law Committee chair Sen. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota).

Both lawmakers have yet to respond to Manglona's letter.

Saipan Tribune archives show that a total of 17 people have been reported missing since 1995 and not one has been found.

Manglona also cited reports of drug abuse and drug-related crimes in the community to call for the oversight hearing on DPS.

He said that drug use and abuse have "significantly increased" over the "past few years."

"We have a widespread drug abuse problem on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. People are losing their jobs, their families, and some even their lives due to drug use and abuse," he said, adding that even "good men and women in law enforcement" have lost their jobs after testing positive for illegal drug use.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres earlier said he is "genuinely concerned" about public safety, and was already initiating discussions to address these concerns.

"To be clear, no one in our closely-knit community deserves to feel unsafe or feel less secure in their homes or villages," said press secretary Kevin Bautista, adding that Torres is in talks with DPS, the Attorney General's Office, and the public to "ensure that our island community…will be safer for the future."

Separately, Rep. Edwin K. Propst, (Ind-Saipan) had criticized DPS in a social media post and recommended that DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero update the public on what's going on.

"The public has a ton of questions and we are getting no statements and no answers," said Propst. "He needs to give us some direction, some advice, [anything]."

TORRES

From Page 1

also known as Sam Sun, is seen with Torres and IPI executive director of Corporate Social Responsibility Geri Dela Cruz posing for a photo at what appears to be an Asian-themed restaurant. Also with the three is an unnamed man of Asian descent, said to be a potential investor.

Sun has been indicted on charges of harboring illegal aliens, unlawfully employing aliens, and money laundering. According to the indictment, he is a tourist whose entry visa has expired and is not authorized to open a business here. He allegedly had an illegal trip package business for pregnant Chinese women who sought to give birth here (and thereby earn U.S. citizenship for the newborn children).

According to a statement from press secretary Kevin Bautista, the photo was taken a year ago, in August 2017—"a considerable amount of time before the Nov. 6, 2017 indictment of [Sun]."

The meeting with Torres and Dela Cruz, Bautista said, was a "presentation of a certain proposal"—"one of many proposals the governor, in his official capacity, is presented with on a constant basis."

"This was also the first and only time that the governor met this individual. The governor did not eat lunch with this individual; he merely attended his presentation. During the meeting, the governor agreed to have his photo taken, something he almost always does with potential investors and other people he has meetings with. Upon learning of the indictment of the aforementioned individual earlier this week, the governor directly ordered a stop in any discussions of the proposal," Bautista added.

According to him, the governor was unaware of Sun's immigration status.

Having entered the CNMI back in January 2014 under the visa-waiver program, Sun has yet to return to his home country since then and allegedly started his illegal business this January 2017, according to the indictment filed against him.

"The governor was unaware of the individual's immigration status. It is not the practice for the governor to vet the immigration status of potential investors, especially for what are often mere courtesy calls. This practice is in line with the governor's policy of making himself available to the public, whether that be a potential investor, an elected official, or more importantly, a constituent," Bautista said.

"Gov. Torres has stated on the record multiple times and so states again here, the practice of birth tourism is unacceptable and condemns its practice in the CNMI. He is committed to pursuing all options to prevent illegal immigration practices in order to ensure the safety of our borders and the integrity of our island community."

A statement from Dela Cruz said she was merely attending the presentation "in her personal capacity and on her own time."

The IPI statement yesterday added: "At no time was Ms. Dela Cruz representing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC," adding that Dela Cruz's meeting with Sun was the first and that Sun happened to be the translator of the investor.

IPI pointed out that Dela Cruz and Sun's meeting "had nothing to do with IPI."

"[Dela Cruz] was present during her off-duty hours in her personal capacity. IPI has never had any dealing with the indicted individual [Sun] in any way," the statement said, adding that IPI expects its employees to "perform their responsibilities" during work hours and that IPI had "no control" over what employees do in their personal time.

OATH

From Page 2

person, and that is not an opportunity afforded to all," she said.

Aside from Reyes, Hunter, Green, and the Uberita couple, the other new citizens are Wilfredo A. Abu, Abigail S. Babauta, Janeth G. Barcinas, Chona M. Borja, Jung Jin Yang Castro, Erlinda P. Delos Santos, Orcesino Z. Echalico, Rhodora E. Gottwald, Ernesto E. Javier, Melinda B. Javier. Leonarda S. Lacandazo, Fidel P. Mallari Jr., Liezl B. Manacop, Virginia M. Marinas, Ailene A. Miranda, Ma Shieriline F. Owens, Kil Hong Pae, Rex John S. Penaroyo, Xiaohua Satterfield, and Victor R. Vino.

NMHC to fund San Vicente park, Tinian gym repair

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. has started the bidding process for its San Vicente Park Project and will soon start the pre-construction conference for the Tinian Gymnasium renovation.

The planned San Vicente park will be located by the *Tres Marias* store.

According to NMHC planning and environmental officer Jacob Muña, the pre-bidding process was started recently and the bids were issued out in the first week of November.

Muña said that NMHC expects to receive the bids by the end of November or December and will update the public as to what steps will be taken after that.

According to Muña, the government initiated the San Vicente Park Project because the village currently has none.

NMHC will also be having the pre-construction conference for the Tinian Gymnasium project on Nov. 18 and will start the renovation of the facility this month.

Muña said this will give the Tinian community a functioning facility that they can all enjoy and hopefully promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

"The Tinian Gymnasium facility is a youth facility for fitness like basketball, volleyball, and wrestling matches," said Muña.

The renovated facility will also help make the Tinian community more aesthetically pleasing. "By renovating it, it would give a renewed appearance to the Tinian community," said Muña.

The project was initiated by the Tinian Mayor's Office and will be funded through the Community Development Block Grant under NMHC.

According to Muña, the time period for the renovation will be 180 days.

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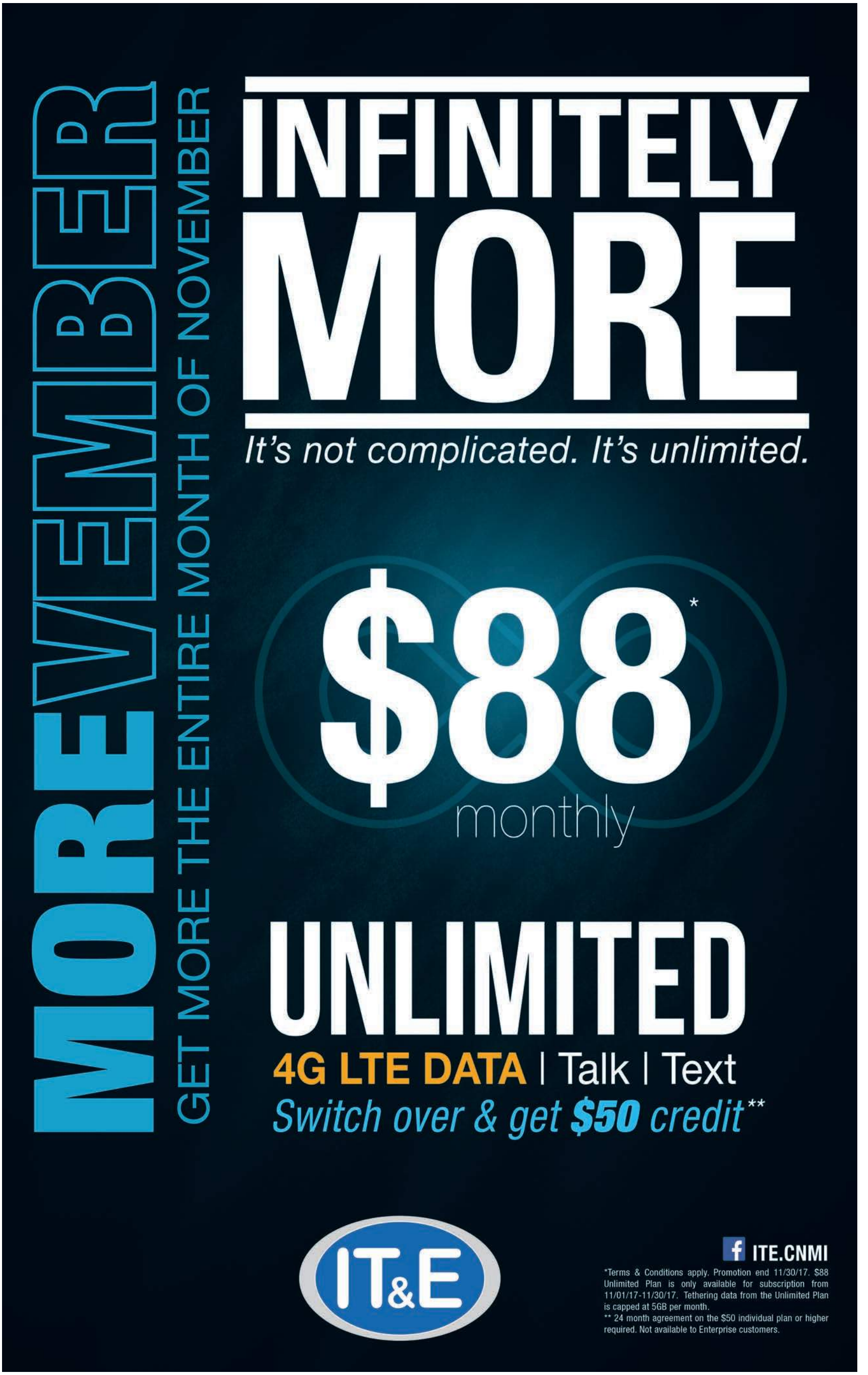
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On behalf of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Staff & Management, the Commonwealth Library Council, and the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, we thank the following individuals and organizations for making the 6th Annual Community Tent-Trunk or Treat held on October 31, 2017 at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library a highly successful event.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, and Thank you!

- Office of the Attorney General
- Commonwealth Respite Service Program
- Women's Affairs
- Senator Justo Quitugua
- Senator Arnold Palacios
- Congressman BJ Attao
- Congresswoman Janet Maratita
- Congressman Donald Barcinas
- Congressman Ivan Blanco
- Congressman Frank Dela Cruz
- Congressman Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero
- Congressman John Paul P. Sablan
- MHS JROTC Dolphin Battalion
- SSHS JROTC Manta Ray Battalion
- CNMI Department of Corrections
- Margaret Tudela
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US House committee approves Kilili wind energy amendment

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. House Natural Resources Committee agreed yesterday to amend a national energy bill to include a feasibility study for offshore wind energy in the Marianas.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) offered the amendment during the mark-up of H.R. 4239, the SECURE American Energy Act.

If the study demonstrates that wind energy is a feasible alternative for electrical generation in the Marianas, the bill authorizes offshore leases to be offered.

"I want to thank [committee chair] Rob Bishop for his co-sponsorship of my amendment," Sablan said. "Lowering the cost of electricity is important for businesses and family households in the Marianas, so we have to use every opportunity to find means to do that."

Sablan's amendment instructs the director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to conduct the economic feasibility study and submit the results to Congress within 180 days of enactment of the SECURE Act. If the study finds that the use of wind energy is feasible, a lease is to be offered no later than one year after enactment.

A 2017 study of unsubsidized levelized cost of energy by the investment firm Lazard found the cost of offshore wind to be $113 per MWh as compared to $197 for diesel reciprocating engine generation in remote locations.

The 2013 Renewable Energy Integration Study commissioned by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. found possibilities for significant cost savings with the addition of renewable energy to the CUC system. Up to 8,000 kW of energy from wind or solar generation could be added to the CUC system without requiring any storage system to smooth the input from these energy sources into the Saipan distribution grid, the study found. ***(PR)***

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Dr. Paul's grandfather was born in the CNMI (Agrihan), and is of Chamorro descent.
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Kilili pushes health services for veterans of US territories

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In pursuit of his goal to have a Veterans Affairs medical clinic serving veterans in the Northern Mariana Islands, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) successfully added a requirement for a needs assessment to legislation approved by the House Veterans' Affairs Committee yesterday.

The legislation, H.R. 4243, establishes a commission to make recommendations on modernization or realignment of VA health facilities.

Sablan's amendment specifically requires that the VA's capacity to provide hospital care, medical, mental health, and geriatric services for veterans in the Marianas and other U.S**.** insular areas also be looked at.

Committee chair Phil Roe, M.D. (R-Tennessee) acknowledged Sablan's concern during the committee meeting. "We have discussed in my office the issues that you are dealing with," he said. "So, Mr. Sablan, I understand very well where you are coming from and the lack of services that you have.

"You have my commitment to try to help you," Roe added.

"I very much appreciate… Roe's willingness to pay attention to the lack of veterans services in the Marianas," Sablan said. "And I remain optimistic about the chairman's commitment to me and other Pacific area representatives to hold a hearing on our veterans next year."

Roe talked about his interest in going personally to other areas of the country to get a feel for how veterans are being served. "I know what my own VA looks like at home, but I want to go to others," he said. "I've been to both Democrat districts and Republican districts to look. And I'll continue to do that as long as I am chairman."

Sablan's study provision was originally directed solely at the situation of Pacific area veterans in the Marianas, Guam, and American Samoa. But he expanded the study's scope, during the committee mark-up, to include Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. He made the change at the request of Resident Commissioner Jenniffer González-Colón (R-Puerto Rico).

"Representatives of the non-state areas have to work together, even across party lines," Sablan said. "Our interests as 'territories' are much more similar than our differences as Republicans or Democrats.

"So, just as my amendment will potentially help veterans in American Samoa, represented by Ms. Radewagen, a Republican, I also want to be sure that veterans in the Caribbean are taken into consideration."

Sablan has only been a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee since the beginning of the year, after requesting a special waiver to serve on a third committee. But he is using his membership effectively to help Marianas veterans, who often have trouble getting the services they are entitled to.

"I have used my short time on this committee to bring attention to the lack of direct VA care and services to the veterans living in the Northern Marianas," Sablan said in prepared remarks at yesterday's committee meeting.

"In addition to being the only U.S. jurisdiction without a VA facility, the Marianas also has no dedicated VA medical or mental healthcare professionals to serve veterans.

"In the Northern Marianas, veterans must rely instead on community providers for the care and services they want to receive from the VA."

Reliance on community providers is made possible by the Choice Act, which allows veterans to get medical services outside of the VA system. Many veterans in the Marianas and many healthcare providers were unaware that Choice was available. So, Sablan conducted informational workshops earlier this year on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

Sablan brought the CEO of TriWest, the third-party administrator of Choice, to the Marianas for the events. And more than 60 new providers signed up to make their services available to Marianas veterans.

The Choice program is open to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest VA facility. Sablan and other members of Congress, representing remote and rural areas, agitated for several years about the difficulties that distance created for their veterans. The Choice program was created in response. ***(PR)***

Fair housing accessibility seminar

On Dec. 13, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. will be hosting the second part of a two-part training/seminar on Fair Housing & Accessibility at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The seminar, from 9am to 4pm, is for architects, attorneys, civil engineers, contractors, developers, builders, disability housing advocates, Section 504 coordinators, landlords, property managers, site managers, maintenance personnel, or anyone interested in Fair Housing Accessibility.

Registration fee before Nov. 30 is $40 per person and registration fee after Nov. 30 is $50 per person. For government agencies and non-profit partners, the registration fee is $25 per person. The fee will cover for the two-day seminar and refreshments. Contact Doraine Camacho or Jacob Muña at 234-6866/9447/7670 for reservations. ***(PR)***

Make-A-Wish fundraiser generates over $37K

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Make-A-Wish Guam and Saipan Chapter generated over $37,000 during its annual Black Tie and *Zories* fundraiser last Friday night, with the money going toward fulfilling the wishes of children who suffer from critical illnesses.

The fundraiser, which has been held on Saipan the past five years, was able to raise a total of $37,124.16 from raffle tickets, tickets, and cash and in-kind donations.

The funds will go directly to the Commonwealth's "wish kids."

Chapter board member Kanae Quinn credits the success of Friday's event to the help of sponsors.

Donors and sponsors included Audrey Afable, Bank of Guam, Bank of Saipan, BFJ Corp., Bridge Capital, Chong's Corp., Daryl Cortez, Deloitte, Delta Management, DFS Guam Ltd., DFS Saipan Ltd., Docomo Pacific, Amanda Dunn, EFC Engineers & Architects, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Flametree TV, Jerimae Ganiban, Gold's Gym Saipan, Kelly Guevarra, Hardt Eye Clinic and Diabetes Education Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Imperial Pacific, Isabel Ito, Island Greens, IT&E, JC Tenorio Enterprises, Kanoa Resort, Kensington Hotel, Dr. Beth Kohnen, Let's Go Saipan, Lollipops, Marianas Eye Institute, MarPac, *Marianas Variety*, McDonald's, MHS Rhythm 'n Harmony, Ming Li, Jhaza Mirano, Moylan's Insurance, Naked Fish Bar & Grill, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Pacific Rim International, Pacific Trading Co., Pena House/Iridescent Boutique, Lizalyn Ramos, Revolving Restaurant 360, Saipan Brewing Co., Seatouch Saipan, The Shack, Skydive Saipan, Star Sands Plaza, Sweet Escapes, Takagi & Associates, TakeCare, Titan Imports, Transcends LLC, Rob Travilla/Tribes Marianas, Triple J Enterprises, and Erica Fay and Lawrence Tubera.

The event took place at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni Restaurant.

Five lucky individuals went home with prize bundles that were valued from $1,000 to $3,000.

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Middle school students of Green Meadow School.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GMS Falcons do well at NJSDA meet

Middle school students of Green Meadow School showed huge strides at the National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition last Oct. 14, 2017, at Oleai Elementary School,

Out of 24 GMS middle school students, 19 won ribbons in different categories, including Poetry, Prose, Dramatic Interpretation, Humorous Interpretation, DUO and Storytelling.

This speech competition was fully supported by parents, advisers, and the GMS administration because they believe that involving students in competition like this helps enhance the students' communication skills, public speaking, and confidence.

The winning students were:

DUO A
3rd place: Ariel Legaspi & Sabino Cabrera

DUO B
4th place: Kristin Dela Cruz & Arnel Josh Coloma

HUMOROUS INTERP
4th place: Liana Daca

ORIGINAL ORATORY
2ND place: Christian Ted Pamintuan

DECLAMATION
2ND place: Christian Ted Pamintuan
4th place: Elijah Umali

DRAMATIC INTERP
4TH place: Ariel Legaspi

STORYTELLING A
4th place: Darren Tabora

PROSE A
3rd place: Lorenz Jeremiah Espiritu

PROSE B
2ND place: John Paul Salamat
3rd place: Honey Satur
5th place: Faith Cacdac

POETRY A
1ST place: John Rey Uy
2nd place: Liana Daca
4th place: John Paul Salamat
5TH place: Lorenz Jeremiah Espiritu

POETRY B
1ST place: Areeza Gaile Anda
5th place: Arnel Josh Coloma

POETRY MASTERS C
2nd place: Leunyce Regalado
(PR)

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Rahman insists on 'insufficient evidence'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the three men convicted of bringing Bangladeshi men to Saipan on the promises of high-paying jobs and green cards in exchange for cash insists that his convictions were based on insufficient evidence.

Muksedur Rahman, though counsel Robert T. Torres, said it is clear that the evidence presented at trial did not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he concocted the fraudulent labor scheme.

No evidence was introduced showing that the jobs given to the complainants were not real jobs, said Torres in Rahman's reply to the U.S. government's opposition to his motion for judgment of acquittal and motion for a new trial.

Torres said that Rahman's co-defendant, David Trung Quoc Phan, advertised for these job positions and fulfilled all posting requirements necessary to obtain the CW-1 permits.

In fact, the complainants lied about their qualifications to Phan, to the U.S. consulate, and to the persons who provided their credentials to Phan, Torres said.

The complainants' inability to perform the jobs for which they were hired, along with their lies to U.S. consular officials, do not mean that they were defrauded, he said.

He pointed out that the contract period of employment was for one year, and no document mentioned anything about a green card.

He said any conclusion about Rahman's culpability that rests on money deposited into Rahman's sister's account was speculative, because the banking records were untrustworthy.

Torres said there was no evidence that Rahman solicited, recruited, or hired anyone outside the U.S.

That requires a new trial for Rahman, he said.

Assistant U.S. attorney James J. Benedetto pointed out that there was ample evidence for the jury to convict Rahman.

Last Oct. 18, a federal jury found Rahman, a welder, guilty of two counts of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting.

Rahman's co-defendant, Phan, was found guilty of two counts of mail fraud, three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting, and one count of fraud and misuse of visas and permits.

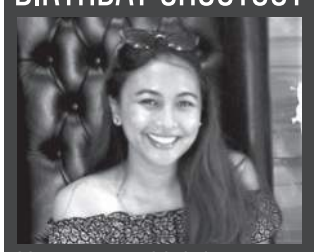
A third defendant, Md. Rafiqul Islam, a welder, was found guilty of one count of mail fraud and three counts of fraud in foreign labor contracting. Rahman and Islam are brothers.

They are to be sentenced on March 9, 2018.

Phan's fiancée, Analyn Nunez, and Rahman's wife, Shahinur Akter, were acquitted. Another defendant, Zeaur Rahman Dalu, pleaded guilty.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge John C. Coughenour presided over the trial.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 21st birthday greetings go out to Ally, who is celebrating her special day today, Nov. 10! Stay sweet and beautiful as you are. We love you always!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Bank of Guam is SBA Best Lender, Banker of the Year

HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam was named Lender of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration Guam, while Christopher Cruz was named Banker of the Year for fiscal year that ended last Sept. 30, 2017.

Bank of Guam received the Lender of the Year honors by lending over $2.4 million to various small businesses.

Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam board chair, chief executive officer and president stated, "It is particularly gratifying on our 45th anniversary that the Bank of Guam *familia* extends its heartfelt congratulations to Chris Cruz on being named 2017 SBA Banker of the Year and on Bank of Guam being awarded 2017 SBA Lender of the Year.

"We are proud to earn these annual recognitions, which are the result of hard work and persistence of our lending and relationship banking teams. We are proud we have been named Lender of the Year for six years and Banker of the Year five years." ***(PR)***

From left, Trish Salas, Gigi Mueller, Joyce Miyashita, Vanessa Quinata, Janine Eustaquio, Lou Leon Guerrero, Kin Cook, Chris Cruz, Kal Rengiil, Ken Lujan, Maria Leon Guerrero, and Bill Leon Guerrero.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cabrera named BECQ administrator

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had officially appointed Eliceo D. Cabrera to serve as the permanent administrator of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality under the Office of the Governor.

Cabrera

"Eli has had years of extensive experience in the public sector, and I believe his passion for our environment and willingness to work with others will help him lead BECQ with success. His performance as the acting administrator has been positive, and he has built a good relationship with our local and federal folks in DEQ and CRM. It is only fitting that he becomes our full-fledged administrator for BECQ," Torres said Wednesday.

Cabrera was appointed acting BECQ administrator on Sept. 30, 2017. A former House speaker in the 17th Legislature, he previously served as director of Parks and Recreation under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources from 2013 to 2017.

"I want to thank Gov. Torres for his official appointment to lead BECQ. I will continue to implement all ongoing projects and programs of BECQ while also ensuring that permit applications that comply with the rules are approved. Protecting our environment is our number one goal, and we continue to make sure that goal is met," Cabrera said. ***(PR)***

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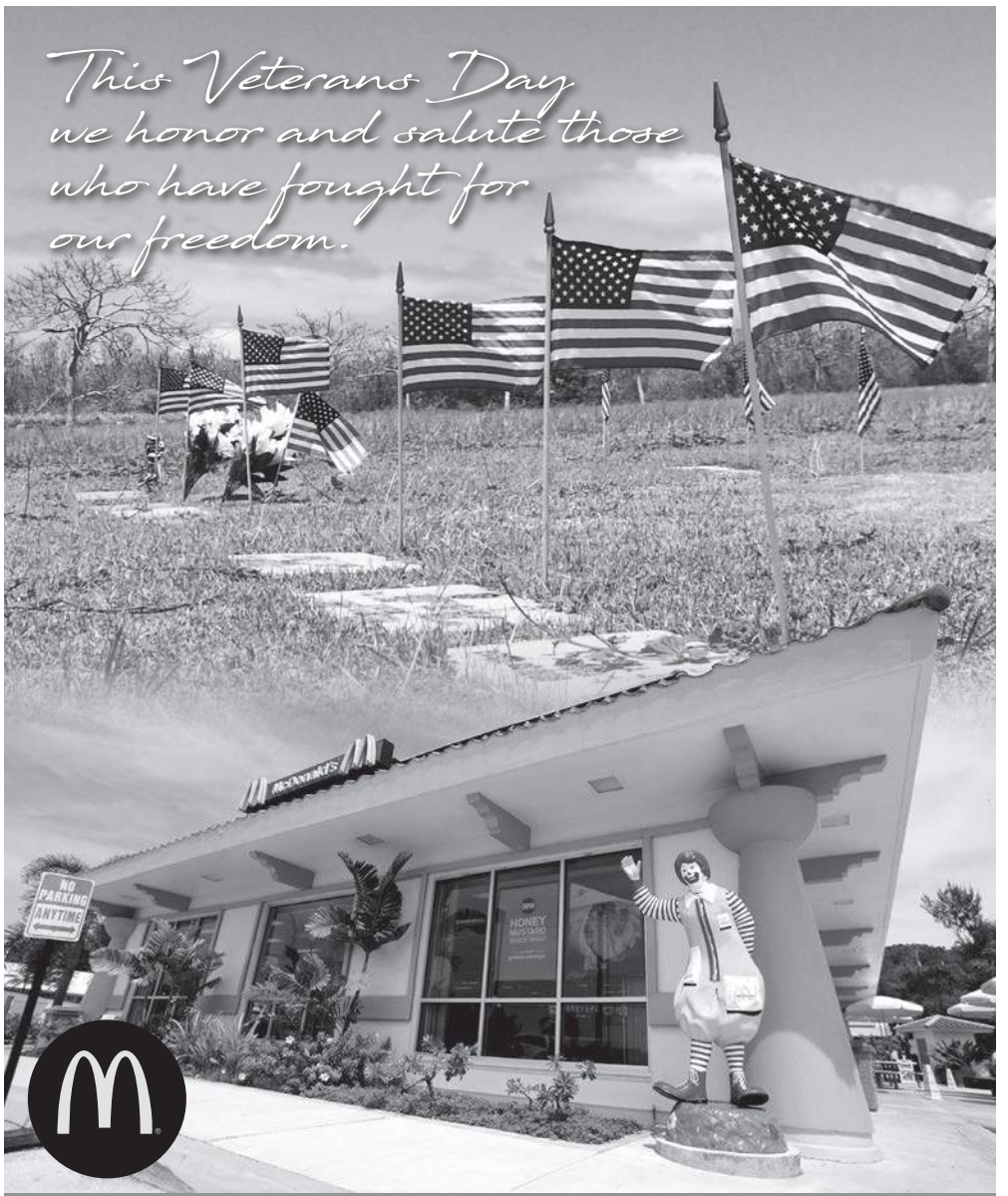
234-4040
Located on Middle Road, Gualo Rai



From the staff and management of McDonald's Saipan

Garapan Express: OPEN 24 HRS [24/7] • Chalan Pale Arnold Road: 6:30am to 10:00pm
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel. 235-8761 • Fax. 235-8760
E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

From the management and staff of

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres

Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog

Grateful Islands… and a Grateful Nation

On the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour, we come together as a community and as a nation to honor our brave men and women who heeded the call to service to our country.

Veterans Day is truly a time where many emotions come out, some too many to mention. But the one common emotion that has brought us together every year to commemorate their service since the end of World War I has been the emotion of gratitude.

The work they do, or have done for us is sometimes a task that goes unnoticed or underappreciated, but it is one that carries with it a great deal of nobility. It takes a very special breed of man or woman to be called into service, some of them even sacrificing their lives for our peace and security. But for the selflessness engrained in them since birth, to liberate the oppressed and defend freedom and all it stands for, this is a day and honor that they all truly deserve.

As a group of grateful islands who are part of an even more grateful nation, let us all do our part to honor our troops, those who serve us in all branches, those who have retired, and those whose memories live on in our hearts, and take a moment to simply say to each and every one of them, **"Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'åse' yan Ghilisou!"**

Have a safe and Happy Veterans Day!

RALPH DLG. TORRES

VICTOR B. HOCOG

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FHB branches open today

All Guam and Saipan branches of First Hawaiian Bank will be open today, Nov. 10, from 9am to 6pm. The bank's Tamuning and Dededo brances will be open tomorrow, Saturday, Nov. 11, from 9am to 1pm. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Nov. 16

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next monthly support meeting of the Commonwealth Cancer Association on Nov. 16, 2017, starting at 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's conference room. Guest speaker will be Phuong Luu, MD, director of Public Health Services, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Phones at OAG Criminal Division back in service

The telephone lines for the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division office in Susupe are back in service. To reach the OAG's Criminal Division, call 237-7600. The fax number is 234-7016. ***(PR)***

CUC Customer Service Center open half-day today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Customer Service Center will be open today, Nov. 10, 2017, from 8am to 12pm, for payments and purchase of pre-paid meter tokens (load) only. All other offices, however, will be closed today in observance of Veterans Day. For emergencies, contact the CUC Call Center at 664-4282 (4CUC). ***(PR)***

Church 360 to hold kids' fall celebration

Church 360 will be holding a kids' fall celebration today, Nov. 10, from 6pm to 8pm at Church 360 on the fourth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza. This free event is open for children ages 4-12. Parents are welcome to drop off their children or stay for the entire event. Parents will need to register their child at the door. Children will be learning about facing your fears through a Bible lesson, songs, verses, and Veggie Tale DVD clips. Children will also have snacks, play games, and make crafts. For more information email Joy at flybjrew@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Free seminar on marketing

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be offering a free business seminar called "How to Write a Marketing Plan" at the Commonwealth Development Authority boardroom on Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017, from 8:30am to 10am. It will be presented by Nicole Babauta, director/business adviser at CNMI SBDC. To register, contact the CNMI SBDC office at 664-3018 or visit http://pisbden.ecenterdirect.comievents. ***(PR)***

Revived *Kantan Isla* is rescheduled

The Kantan Isla Music Festival will be held on Nov. 17 at the Garapan Fishing Base, from 5pm to 11pm. For additional information, call CCA at 322-9982. There would be a raffle drawing and incentives for participating individuals. Ten vendor slots are open for non-profit organizations, families, and churches that want to raise funds. The council will be providing tents but a $25 park and recreation fee is required.

Las Vegas Night on Nov. 18

The 2017 Rotary Club of Saipan's Las Vegas Night is on Nov. 18, at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, from 6pm to 12pm. This year the Rotary Club of Saipan will make a donation to the Rotary Club of Las Vegas Nevada to help those in this year's mass shootings. Each ticket is $5 or get five tickets for $20. You can call the Rotary Club of Saipan at 783-6378 for tickets, or visit any of the distribution points at Megabyte, NMPASI, or Paradise Dental. ***(PR)***

Chamber hosts sales training for holidays

The "Customer Service & Suggestive Selling for the Holidays" training seminar will be conducted on Nov. 16, from 9am to 12pm at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315). Registration fee is $50 per person for Saipan Chamber of Commerce members and $55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. To register, call 670-234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor visiting Saipan

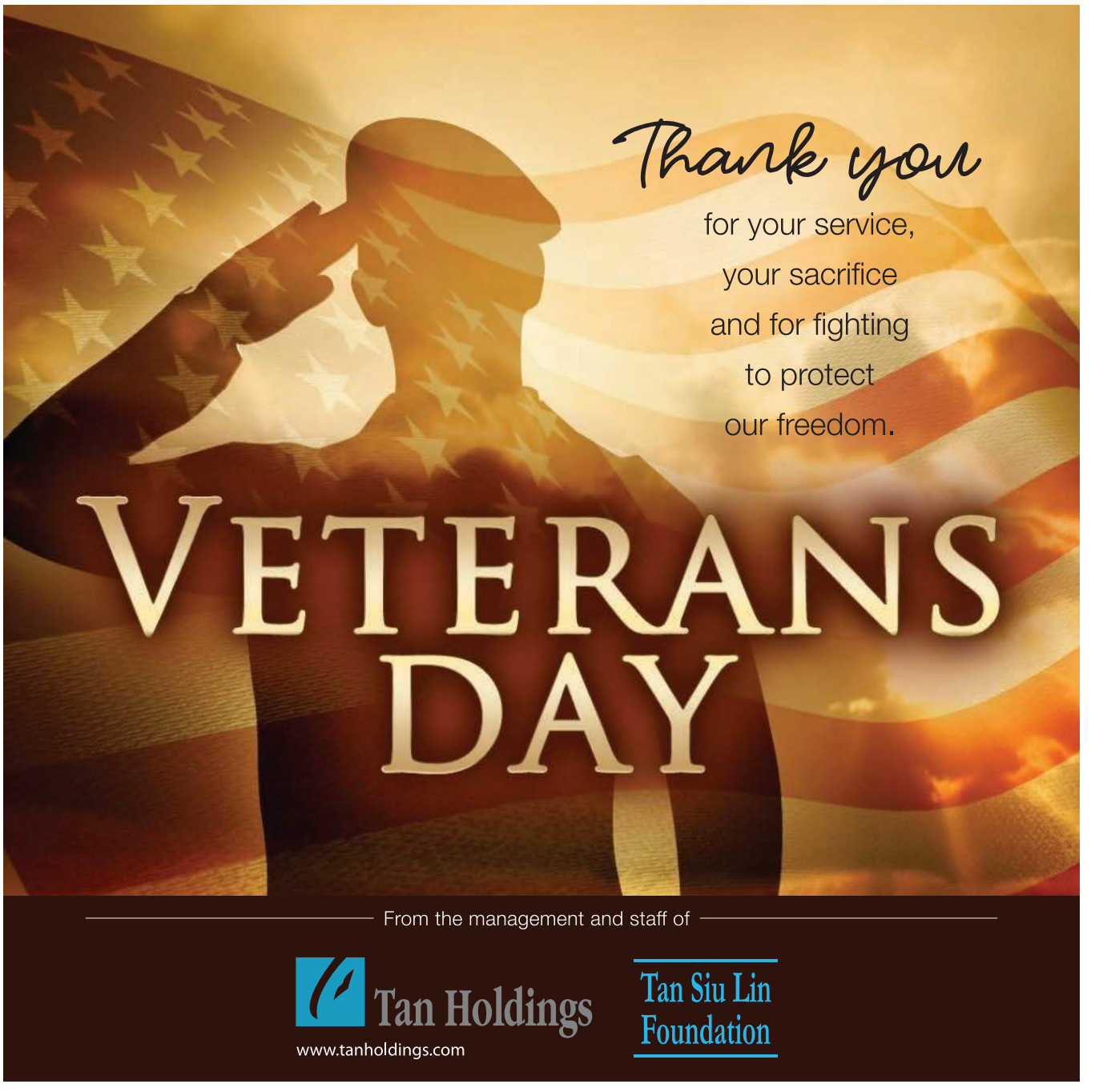
A U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on Dec. 15, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The benefits counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg. Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

The next CNMI Marriage Encounter Weekend will take place at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on Nov. 17-19 2017. It is open to husband and wife couples of all denominations and mixed faiths. There is a non-refundable application fee of $100. If couples are unable to fund the $100, M.E. will find sponsors to pay the fee. To participate, email cnmime@gmail.com or call Joe and Linda Muña at 287-2102. Space is limited to the first 15 couples only. ***(PR)***

PH consulate to hold NMI outreach

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, will conduct a mobile consular outreach in the CNMI from Nov. 13 to 17, 2017 (Monday to Friday) at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 9am to 6pm. Those who wish to renew their passport may submit their application at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Building D, second floor (top of the Mini-Mart Store), Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm, break time). For any inquiry about passport renewal, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

A small-town heart beats within all of us after Texas church massacre

The glitzy neon splash of Las Vegas and the just-plain-folks spirit of little Sutherland Springs represent opposite ends of America.

Yet these towns are now forever bound by a heinous reality: Two of the deadliest mass shootings in recent U.S. history have shattered each in the space of five weeks.

Vegas' nightmare began the first Sunday in October, when a madman with an arsenal of weaponry gunned down 58 people and injured scores more at a country music festival.

The nation had hardly regained its footing when, the first Sunday in November, yet another gunman bent on evil killed more than two dozen church-goers and injured 20 or so in the worst massacre in modern Texas history.

The Sutherland Springs assailant all but took out an entire congregation as he, spraying gunfire, burst into the modest First Baptist Church during morning worship. In just minutes, he turned the one-blinking-light, unincorporated town 30 miles southeast of San Antonio into a horror set.

Whether church worshippers in South Texas or music lovers in Vegas, all the dead and injured were innocent victims simply going about their lives. Not only are they lost to us, their lives cut cruelly short, but they leave families, friends and neighbors to the all-too-familiar dirge of heartbreak and healing.

Sutherland Springs is not the first church shooting in Texas to explode the myth of small-town safety. Some of you will recall the gunman, clad in battle fatigues and yelling "This is war," who opened fire on a First Baptist congregation in the East Texas town of Daingerfield back in 1980, killing five and wounding 11.

But a massacre the size of Sunday's church tragedy takes a small town and its residents to their knees. Hearing of victims who range from age 5 to 72, most shot as they sat in their familiar church pews—it's enough to take us all to our knees.

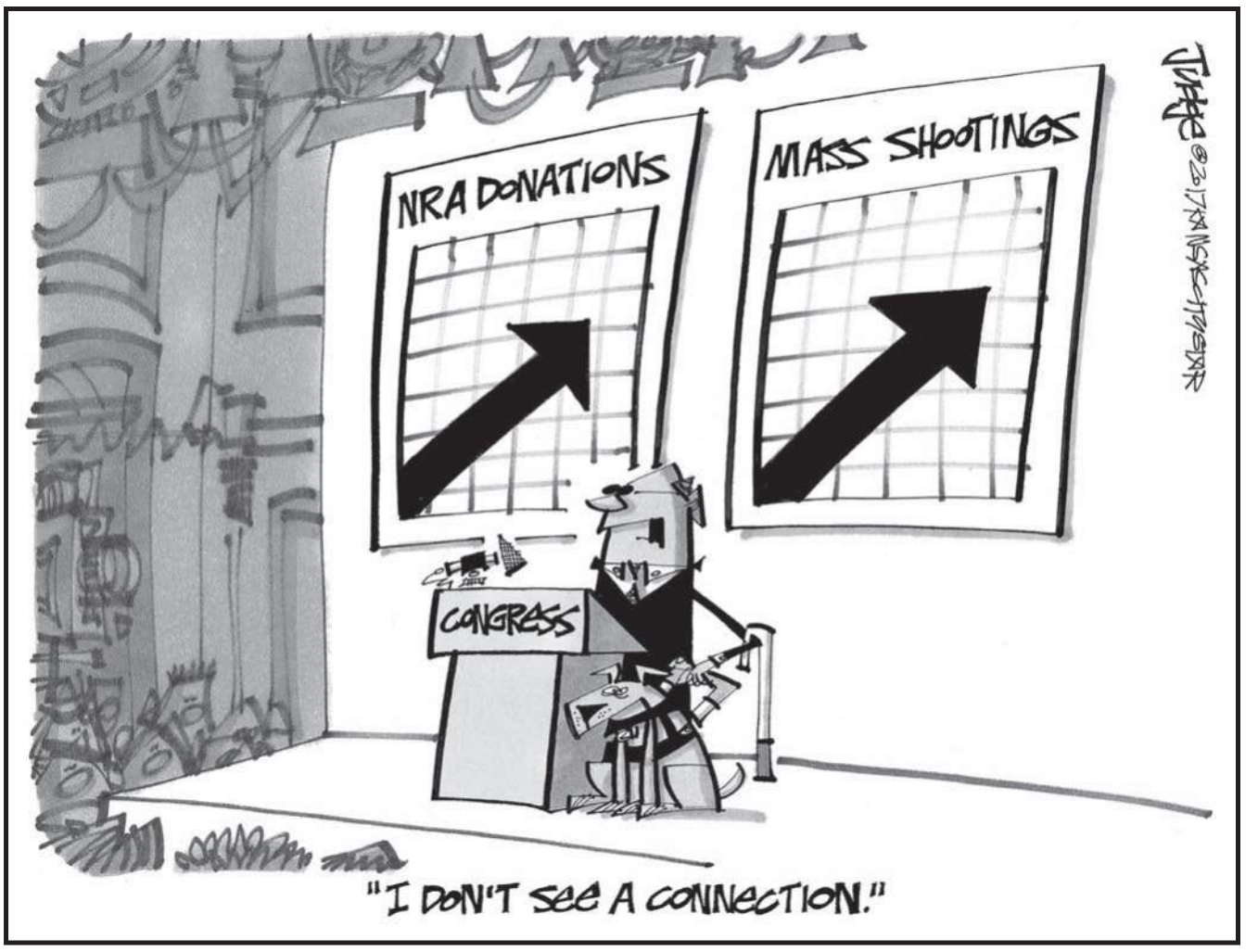
And for a community with only a couple hundred residents, the victims' names will be no abstract list. In small towns like Sutherland Springs, these will be relatives and classmates, neighbors and friends. And so often, it's the churches that knit the community together.

As we hang our heads in this tragedy, we cannot forget that we've barely caught our breath from the last. We know in our heads that mass shootings account for only a tiny fraction of the killings in America. But we can see that the frequency of these large-scale homicides is increasing.

And with three of the deadliest having occurred in just the last 18 months—Las Vegas, Sutherland Springs and the killing of 49 people at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Fla.—a sense of helplessness is growing nationally.

We take pride in our Lone Star grit and resiliency. But the Sutherland Springs massacre hits hard _- so many of us still carry small-town hearts, even if we have learned to wear big-city armor. Thoughts and prayers—even the most sincere—are only a beginning.

(c)2017 *The Dallas Morning News*



A 20-year take

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

While we're casting our plans for next year, my pals and I have been poking through our photo albums and files. We've been talking about the good ol' days. We noticed that the current year, 2017, marks the 20-year anniversary of some marketing successes. Those were, as the saying goes, "hard-earned." We were promoting our Saipan-based tours in Asian markets.

Twenty years is a long time. How much has changed over the years? I'll offer some random observations.

I'll admit that certain realms of technology have certainly changed things. For example, two decades ago most of us couldn't envision that customers would, someday, be researching, booking, and paying for their vacations via portable telephones.

I won't belabor how much Saipan has or has not changed. That's too subjective of a call for me to make. But I will note that on Saipan, or anywhere else, what seems like change on the surface can actually be the result of very consistent behavior beneath the surface.

Anyway, back to the marketing thing. Overall, I don't think that the fundamentals have changed much, at least in the industries that I deal with.

As for the tourism industry in specific, penetrating Asian markets from the shores of Saipan is no small challenge. Some of the challenges are obvious, even as an exercise in armchair abstraction. We all know that we're up against addressing markets that are distant and different in terms of geography, culture, and language.

But one element that's not so obvious from the outside is the structure of tourism and its components. Tourism, and the marketing of tourism, often involves various tie-ups and alliances within the industry. The Asian industry is often vertically- and horizontally integrated. This structure is different than what you'll typically encounter in the U.S. Jibing the difference isn't rocket science, but it involves putting down your own preferences and judgments in order to understand the market on its own terms.

That is easier said than done, and not just in the tourism realm but in any realm. Identifying your target market and then figuring out what drives its purchasing behavior is one of the business world's greatest challenges.

Meeting that challenge is a high-stakes game. Some of the shrewdest economic studies I've seen have come from the internal papers of large ad agencies. I have one such analysis for a brand of soda pop and it would put most microeconomic texts to shame.

Although large companies can, of course, hire such analytical muscle, and likewise fund various focus groups, surveys, and statistical research, smaller firms often have to rely on anecdotal evidence to puzzle things out.

There's nothing wrong with anecdotal evidence. If you have a reasonably analytical mind and know how to talk to people (both at the street level and the office level), you can really take the pulse of the market.

And there is always grunt work to be done, some of it quite lonely. I used to work for a millionaire who would stand on street corners with a little clicker in his hand. He'd count the number of people who were walking by potential retail locations. You can guess who inherited that job. For this, I went to college.

One thing I like about marketing is that it never rests. The market is always moving and the competition is always moving. Sometimes the big players, like senile dinosaurs, start to rot on their very feet, while smaller and more nimble players come along and claim the action. You'll probably be reading about this in next year's business news when some legacy U.S. retailers go extinct.

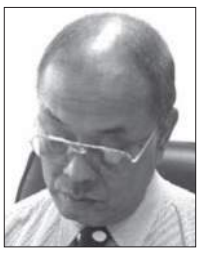
Anyway, when it comes to the smaller scale of business, where anecdotal evidence is all you've got, I've noted that the successful operators tend to be people who are comfortable relating to other people. By contrast, some people, many of them very intelligent and highly educated, simply can't resonate with how other people feel and think.

That's always been the case, of course. But in the modern era, when you can go your entire life swaddled in an electronic cocoon, the supply of healthy empathy is probably on the wane.

As for my supply of random observations, well, I've forked over all I've got today. I'll wrap things up on sort of an old-man note that heeds a 20-year retrospective, even though it's cliché: Those years went by really fast. I'm glad that I've always done work that I liked to do because, in the blink of an eye, it wound up being life itself.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Food: Center of culture



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

We live on an island where food is central to our culture. It is the first thing we offer a visitor as a gesture of goodwill. It is the meal of unity we find at the family dinner table daily. It gives us renewed strength to reset buttons, meeting new challenges.

Though a believer in rugged individualism, I equally understand that such principle needs a break to rein in empathy for those who, despite their honest efforts, are stuck in the swamp of poverty. I have had my share of hunger in poverty and so I've not only met the beast, I lived it more than 50 years ago.

Launch pad: Of course, there are those who've used the various forms of assistance temporarily. I've seen some who've successfully exited their conditions after completing and securing rock solid college education.

So assistance or freebies isn't necessarily the feeding ground for dependency. It has served a useful purpose as launch pads for a brighter and meaningful future. I've seen how this has worked successfully for some of our own people.

Having walked the deep valleys of poverty, I know what it's like going to school with faucet water for breakfast and lunch. I know the depth of hunger and helplessness for I have literally lived it.

The punishing pain in my tummy and dizziness isn't fitting tools negotiating hunger while struggling to listen to my teacher. Not ready to sacrifice the fate and wellbeing of children in need of healthy nutrition. Therefore, my principle takes the back seat!

And the economy being in shambles, we should thank Kilili for finding more money for food stamps. His effort would feed some 2,709 families throughout the holiday season. *Si yuus maase*, Kilili!

Fishing? We do net fishing, corral fishing, spear fishing, and offshore fishing. But there's the Sisyphean (repetitious) form of local fishing that is as fascinating as it is humiliating. But we do it anyway until we begin questioning our own awareness.

It's fishing for a teeny fish called "dohdu" underneath large rocks inside the reef. The nice thing about it, though, is that it gives you that sense of superficial stature as a real fisherman. Love the act where we don goggles, spear guns and fins to chase after a sea dwarf. Unless one uses a net the trip is usually empty. But we repeat the same feat, if only to feed our ego!

It's a near perfect metaphor when mirrored against politicians here. Their myopic view is limited to tiny fish, fearful of big game beyond the reef. Interesting how they've created their own inhibitive view as to ignore issues of substance. Eh, call me the next time you want to chase dohdu, yeah?

Quizzing: My friend Magoo was all smiles, saying he hates fitting the shoes of incumbents on both sides of the street on the hill.

"Each is looking worried sick at the landscape for next year (2018), wary they did nothing to help our people improve their quality of life", he pointed out.

"With 14,000-plus employees stuck and suffocating under poverty income level and below, how do you justify re-election?" he asked.

"While they threw a piece of meatless bone or 5 percent to civil servants, they quickly filled their pockets with the 80 percent increase in their salaries," he pointed out.

"Five percent while throwing over 56-percent increase in hospital fees?" he asked. "The 5 percent is a laughable amount when there's the quick turnaround, forcing some 56-percent increase in hospital fees against struggling and hardworking people."

These hot button issues would make the trip to the campaign trail a disconcerting visit. The pounding of the heavy waves or narrative of dissatisfaction from the villagers awaits them. Should be an interesting discussion against their polished and illustrious "Do-Nothing" trophy.

Suspect confidence among the troops grants the superficial feeling that the Arc of Victory is yours once again. But the narrative that is now a mouthwash in the villages should begin appearing on your radar screen. As fact and fiction is segregated, you'd begin seeing that the goal post in the Arc of Victory has been moved beyond your reach. Big problem, braddah!

Endurance: As the elected elite party up with their new salary increase of some $31,600 in a single stroke, civil servants would make do with a huge piece of bone from the abusive pockets of Da Boysis.

The resiliency and quietude, though, is difficult to assume as acceptance. *No señor*! Don't take people as complete fools. We know our issues and equally know how you've filled your pockets while ignoring the needs of hardworking folks on these isles.

Your irrelevant gamesmanship is the very thing that would sink your canoe! We know that one plus one is two. What formula did you use to arrive at 80?

Pests: Fruit flies have rendered permanent fruit trees here basically useless. Now the rhino beetle has begun its devastating destruction on Rota.

This needs a more aggressive approach to block its spread NMI-wide, especially the rhino beetle. Imagine the destruction of our tree of life—coconut—being eaten to oblivion, rendering it useless. Plus it's the tree so closely associated to an island.

I know DNLR has stepped up to the plate, reviewing the situation on Rota. But this requires the governors of both jurisdictions to meet and see what paradigms could be taken jointly to prevent any further spread of destructive pests.

It may be a difficult imposing requisite measures but if necessity dictates it then all must understand what's at stake.

LITERARY NOOK

Vote Against Violence, Vote for our Veterans

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

"Avenge, O Lord, thy slaughtered saints"
—opening line from "On the Late Massacre in Piedmont" of John Milton (1608-1674)

On the Recent Massacre in Las Vegas

'AVENGE' John Milton asked the Lord to avenge
"thy slaughtered saints" and their "bones"
we know we can't bring back loved ones with revenge
we understand the futility of sticks and stones
'FORGET NOT' these innocents assembled for fun
who fell victim to a madman shooting from above
with lots of ammunition for his many machine guns
spraying death on those gathered for musical love
'GATHERED' with thousands for an evening of song
in Las Vegas, a popular American tourist destination
who would possibly imagine anything could go wrong
let alone conceive or think of massacre and assassination
'PRAY' our lawmakers don't treat this horror as a trifle
and soon pass laws that ban the sales of any assault rifle.

Our Valiant Veterans

They have been with us since wars first started
coming back to their home and family
many fellow soldiers have departed
veterans hoping to live their lives peacefully.
They have fought in the air, on land and sea
built roads, runways, bridges, hospitals too
fighting for freedom and democracy
proudly serving the red, white, and blue.
They have lost fathers, brothers, sons, in war
continuing now in their civilian lives
carrying war wounds, dismembered, and more
happy to be alive with their children and wives.
Each and every day there is nothing better than
respecting and remembering our valiant veterans

Controlling gun control fervor

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

It's not just the usual outrage on the need for gun control after a horrendous shooting. It is a wide-eyed, angry, uninformed, hateful, condescending, morally superior political cascade that will probably help sell a record number of guns over the days to come, maybe making it still easier for the next killer to get one.

The killer in this episode, someone who did just about everything bad you can think of in life, stood in front of the congregation of a small-town Baptist church in Texas and shot everyone who made a sound, including babies that cried. Twenty-six people died. Two good guys chased the killer, he crashed his truck and shot himself to death after being wounded by one of the pursuers.

"As my colleagues go to sleep tonight, they may need to think about whether the political support of the gun industry is worth the blood that flows endlessly onto the floors of American churches, elementary schools, movie theaters and city streets," said Sen. Chris Murphy, D.-Conn., in the first part of an interesting, blistering self-indictment. "The terrifying fact is that no one is safe so long as Congress chooses to do absolutely nothing in the face of this epidemic."

Note that this politician is blatantly saying that those not wanting the laws he wants have been bought out by big money even as they know people will die. He is obviously pointing a finger at the National Rifle Association, which is not powerful so much because of gun-maker dollars as because of millions of citizens who happen to vote. That's known as free speech and democracy. In financial terms, The Washington Examiner reported a couple of years ago, the lobby of the dairy industry spends twice as much as the NRA.

Murphy might also want to pause and think for a moment about the thousands of gun laws already passed at the federal, state and local level and what grand things they have or have not brought to pass. President Barack Obama kept trying to get Congress to fund a study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, failed, decided to rely again on good, old unilateralism, got himself a 2013 study and then zipped his lips. It couldn't find any assurance these laws had done any good at all.

A possible reason? We have something more than 300 million guns in this country, an average of 100 guns for every 100 persons, it is noted, and keeping someone from getting one of them is not easy. Criminals tend to get guns other than through regular stores. There's such a thing as inadequate enforcement, which was the tragic case with the Texas killer, part of whose past would have helped keep him unarmed if properly reported.

It's also the case that more guns don't necessarily mean more deaths. In the 1990s, when gun purchases were skyrocketing, gun homicides were dropping by half. Russia, with an average of nine guns per 100 people and extremely tough gun laws, once had four times the murders we have, a study tells us.

In the meantime, it is not as if those citizens fearful of Democratic overkill have nothing on which to base their fears. There are all kinds of studies that have shown citizens save themselves from foul criminal intentions literally thousands upon thousands upon thousands of times a year, and there have been prominent Democrats endorsing confiscatory measures such as those used in Australia.

None of this is to say we should forget preventative measures, such as effective police work, support of police, addressing cultural issues and doing more to identify the dangerous among us if reasonably possible. Some new guns laws make sense, including disallowing any means of converting semi-automatic weapons into automatic weapons. I myself believe in universal background checks.

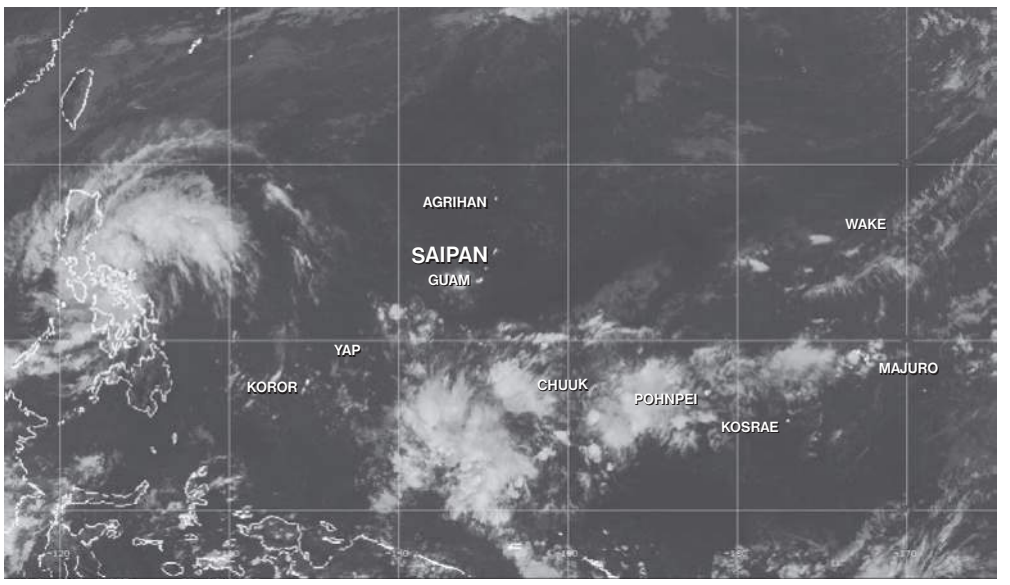
What I do not believe in is overstated, politically advantageous hysterics that can do more to make things worse than better.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:34 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Went ahead and updated the forecasts for Guam and Rota, and the surrounding coastal waters for showers persisting in the region much of the morning. IR and VIS satellite animation suggests these showers will stick around through much of the morning. Opted for an updated forecast vs a short-term forecast. Also added a slight chance of thunderstorms for Guam and Rota as there is some upper-level support for convection. It may not be enough for thunderstorms but IR imagery does show some colder cloud tops with some of the heavier showers over Guam. Expect the previous forecast of drier/sunnier weather to resume over Guam and Rota after noon.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 54°
Beijing	Sunny	50° / 28°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°
London	Partly Cloudy	52° / 39°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	79° / 54°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 75°
New York	Mostly Sunny	38° / 26°
Osaka	Showers	63° / 46°
Paris	Showers	55° / 46°
Busan	Sunny	57° / 39°
Rome	Showers	63° / 43°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	68° / 46°
San Francisco	Showers	60° / 48°
Seoul	Sunny	50° / 34°
Tokyo	Showers	68° / 46°
Washington, DC	Sunny	43° / 27°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:18 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.26
1:42 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.91
7:32 PM	LOW TIDE	1.14
11:51 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.58

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:16 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:58 am	11:48 pm
Saturday	-	12:48 pm	-
Sunday	12:45 am	12:48 pm	-
Monday	1:39 am	2:19 pm	-
Tuesday	2:32 am	3:01 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

MCS orators come together in new club, VOX Knights

Junior high and high school VOX Knights who competed at the October 2017 National Speech and Debate Association and National Junior Speech and Debate Association meets gather with VOX Knights officers and coaches for a group photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"I want to continue to do what I love and love what I do."

This explains why Mount Carmel School senior Monica Usi has been participating in various speech and debate competitions since the first grade.

For over a decade, Usi has pushed herself because "I enjoy expressing myself through speech, poetry, and debate, and have become a better speaker and a better person along the way."

That has brought her to the Primary Grade Forensic Competition, National Junior Speech and Debate Association, National Speech and Debate Association, the International Thespian Society, the Valentine N. Sengebau Poetry Competition, and Mock Trial.

Usi is not alone in her passion for speech and debate. Over the years, hundreds of Mount Carmel School students of all ages have distinguished themselves as accomplished orators who have won countless PGFC, NJSDA, and NSDA ribbons, CNMI Mock Trial championships, and the Attorney General's Cup speech competition.

Capitalizing on this impressive track record, this year, speakers and debaters at the school came together to form a new club called VOX Knights.

Taking its name from the Latin word for voice, VOX Knights brings together students of all grade levels who use their voice in various interscholastic competitions, including NSDA, NJSDA, PGFC, mock trial, and ITS. Together, these students have committed themselves to the club's mission to "*dicere veritas et iustitia*" ("speak truth and justice").

Boasting a membership of over 100 students, VOX Knights is headed by a team of seasoned orators who have competed in virtually all local speech and debate events. The president, Jeff Matthew Melchor, embraces a growth mindset to push himself and push others.

"Every year I join, I always have hope that I will succeed. [Each time] I failed, it made me hungrier to be successful," Melchor said. "The reason I join is to prove to myself that I can do it."

Between himself and Usi, they have earned a couple of mock trial championships and the privilege of representing the CNMI at the national high school mock trials in Boise, Idaho in 2016 and in Hartford, Connecticut earlier this year.

Although busy with the student council and the school's Theatre Club, Usi is also vice president of VOX Knights. "I want to help myself and others become better speakers and better people."

Usi and Melchor are joined by two other seasoned orators, Kalea Borja (secretary) and Jim Michael Ham (treasurer), both of whom have achieved distinction in NJSDA and NSDA. In addition to leading VOX Knights, Borja decided to compete in ITS to "widen my knowledge in theatre and to improve my public speaking skills in a different field." Ham competes "to enhance my speech skills and to improve my vocabulary."

Helping the VOX Knights officers are a group of equally committed coaches and advisers, including Toby Smith, Filmah Buenaflor, Criselda Aldan, Grace Rosete, Zita Sablan, Vir Abueme, and MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

So far this year, VOX Knights has already landed several wins in PGFC, NJSDA, NSDA, and ITS. In the October PGFC meet, the following elementary students placed: Jaze Enzo San Nicholas (first place, Impromptu), Donray Barcinas (second place, Impromptu; fourth place, Readers Forum), Justin Mallari (third place, Readers Forum), Oscar Buenaflor (third place, Impromptu), Ayanna Matsumoto (fourth place, Impromptu), and Ayden Sean Yumul (fifth place, Impromptu).

At the October NJSDA meet, the following junior high school students placed: Kyla Monique Cabrera (first, Impromptu A; third place, Poetry Masters C), Jill Anne Mallari (first place, Poetry Masters C; third place, Original Oratory), Raesyl Gerard Solis (second place, Impromptu A; third place, Poetry B), Renee Kiser (second place, Impromptu B), and Hannah Lacap (second place, Poetry B).

At the October NSDA meet, the following high school students placed: Jeff Mathew Melchor (first place, Dramatic Interpretation; first place, Prose Masters A; and fourth place, Impromptu A), Theresa Zheng (first place, Impromptu B; second place, Poetry Masters A; fifth place, U.S. Extemporaneous), Michelle Palacios (first place, Poetry Masters A), Amy Rose Cabanting (second place, Dramatic Interpretation; fifth place, Poetry Masters A; fiftth place, Prose Masters A), Monica Usi (second place, Original Oratory; fifth place, Expository), Jonelle Toskas (third place, Poetry Masters B; fourth place, Original Oratory; fourth place, Expository), and Jim Michael Ham (fourth place, Impromptu C).

At the October ITS meet, the following high school students placed: Jan Bobadilla (first place, Short Film), and Kalea Borja and Alvin Palacios (third place, Short Film). ***(PR)***

2017 golf 3rd Annual Tournament

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Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, and Thank you!

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NEW JUDGE

Newly-sworn in Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan poses with CNMI, Guam, and U.S. District Court justices and judges, along with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann Torres, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, Villa Hocog, Bogdan's wife Tomoko, and Tomoko's father Nobuhisa Kawakata, at the investiture ceremony yesterday in the CNMI Supreme Court.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan takes his oath before Gov. Ralph DLG Torres at the investiture ceremony on Wednesday at the CNMI Supreme Court. Also in the photo are Bogdan's wife, Tomoko.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Newly sworn in Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan delivers his remarks after his investiture ceremony on Wednesday at the CNMI Supreme Court.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CNMI, Guam, and U.S. District Court justices and judges listen to remarks during the investiture ceremony for Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan on Wednesday at the CNMI Supreme Court.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Newly sworn in Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan poses with his wife Tomoko and father-in-law Nobuhisa Kawakata at the investiture ceremony on Wednesday at the CNMI Supreme Court.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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AGENDA

Thursday, November 16th
- **Monitoring Financial Position**
- **Cause & Effect: Roadmap to a Bigger Bottom Line**
- **Income Statement: Break-Even Analysis**

Friday, November 17th
- **Profit Planning & Cash Flow Analysis**
- **Planning & Managing Long-Term Growth**
- **Dealing with Banks & Investor Funding**

How to Attend Profit Mastery:

DATE:
Thursday & Friday,
November 16th & 17th

TIME:
8 am - 5 pm (both days)

PRESENTER:
Rod Bristol
Executive Vice President, Profit Mastery

COST:
$60 per person (Lunch Included)
***Space is limited, register now!

LOCATION:
Pacific Islands Club (PIC)
Saipan, Napu Room

Who Should Attend:

Business owners, managers with direct financial responsibility, and anyone interested in learning more about financial management.

For more information, please contact the CNMI SBDC at 664-3018.

To Register: visit https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/

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Business

Pacific Rim ministers extend talks ahead of APEC summit

DANANG, Vietnam (AP)—Foreign and trade ministers of 21 Pacific Rim economies meeting in Vietnam extended their talks for an extra day Thursday as they struggled for a consensus on open markets and other strategic issues ahead of a regional summit.

The Vietnamese foreign ministry confirmed the talks resumed Thursday morning as the officials sought to close gaps in their positions. They did not give details as the talks were still underway.

A news conference planned for late Wednesday was canceled as the talks dragged on. The ministers were due to endorse a draft of a statement their leaders in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum usually issue at the end of the annual summit, which starts Friday.

The Vietnamese hosts urged those involved to work toward a compromise.

"I hope that we will seize this last opportunity before our leaders' meeting to show flexibility and willingness needed to bridge the remaining gaps so that we can come out with a meaningful package for regional economic integration," said Vietnamese Minister of Industry and Trade Tran Tuan Anh.

"Given the rapid changes and uncertainties that the global economy is now facing, this will convey a strong message that reflects steadfastness and determination of APEC in pursuing a free and open region for trade and investment," Anh said.

It was unclear if the U.S. pushback on "free trade," evidenced in the "America first" policy of the administration of President Donald Trump and his decision to withdraw from a regional trade pact, may have stymied progress toward an agreement.

Trump will attend the summit in the Vietnamese coastal resort city of Danang.

In opening the ministerial talks Wednesday, Vietnamese Foreign Affairs Minister Pham Binh Minh told delegates that shifting global and regional conditions come with "intertwining opportunities and challenges," as they began working out details of the leaders' statement.

"Economic recovery is firming but projected growth rates are still below pre-crisis averages," he said.

Many in the region worry about how efforts to boost productivity through automation might affect their own lives, he added.

Vietnam is using the occasion to showcase the progress its economy has made thanks largely to opening to foreign investment and trade. Danang, Vietnam's third largest city, is in the midst of a construction boom as dozens of resorts and smaller hotels pop up along its scenic coastline.

The country is a major garment exporter and the largest production base for Samsung Electronics' mobile phones.

But even though its economy grew at a brisk 6.2 percent pace last year, its GDP per capita is still one of the lowest among APEC members at less than $2,200. Many of its 95 million people remain poor and vulnerable to natural disasters such as storms that lashed the coast near Danang just days before the APEC meetings.

On Wednesday, about 1,000 soldiers joined local residents in helping to dig the picturesque nearby city of Hoi An out of the mud and rubble left by flooding from a typhoon. Spouses of the APEC leaders are due to visit the city south of Danang during the summit.

A year after Trump was elected U.S. president on a platform that rejected a Pacific Rim trade pact in favor of country-to-country deals and what he calls "fair" rather than free trade, other APEC members seem united in their support of multilateral efforts to set rules on trade and investment.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China, US sign another $206.6B in deals during Trump visit

BEIJING (AP)—China and the United States have signed additional business agreements valued at $206.5 billion during President Donald Trump's visit to Beijing, though some were less than binding commercial contracts. The agreements signed Thursday at a ceremony attended by Trump and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, included sales of U.S.-made chipsets, jet engines and auto parts. Such contract signings are a fixture of visits to Beijing by foreign leaders and are intended to defuse foreign complaints about China's trade policies. Many of the contracts signed Thursday appeared to represent purchases Chinese mobile phone makers, airlines and other customers would have made anyway that were saved for signing during Trump's visit. Others included a cooperation framework on shale gas and a memorandum of understanding on industrial development.

Prosecutors scrutinize investor who served as Trump adviser

Federal prosecutors want to know more about efforts billionaire investor Carl Icahn may have made while he was an adviser to President Donald Trump to change the renewable fuel credits system that was costing one of his companies millions of dollars. Icahn's company said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission last week that it had received a subpoena for records related to the federal Renewable Fuels Standard and Icahn's role with the White House. Icahn didn't immediately respond to a message Wednesday. But his company said it is cooperating with the subpoena from the U.S. Attorney's office for the Southern District of New York. Icahn resigned from the unpaid administration job in August just before The New Yorker published a story detailing potential conflicts and even possible criminal law violations involving refining rules. ***(AP)***

No one is immune from hacks, says former Yahoo CEO

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer told lawmakers Wednesday that the threat from state-sponsored hackers has changed the playing field so dramatically that even the best-defended companies can fall victim. Mayer joined former and current CEOs of Equifax in testifying before a Senate committee examining recent data breaches that affected millions of Americans. Lawmakers said they hoped to use the information learned to shape future legislation. In Yahoo's case, stolen information for billions of users included names, email addresses, phone numbers, birthdates and security questions and answers. Mayer said the thefts occurred during her nearly five-year tenure and she wants to "sincerely apologize to each and every one of our users." "As we all have witnessed: no company, individual or even government agency is immune from these threats," Mayer said. Mayer said Yahoo successfully defended itself against a barrage of state-sponsored and private hacks over the years and even employed hackers to test the company's defenses. In the end, she said "Russian agents intruded on our systems and stole our users' data."

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INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO.: CPA-RA-001-17

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Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of this Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies and/or corporations for office renovations to the former Freedom Air Lease space at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning November 06, 2017 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport upon payment of Fifty Dollars ($50.00). The Bid Package includes layouts and project specification. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the bid package. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project if so required.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to Fermin Flores at ferminf@cpa.gov.mp no later than November 23, 2017.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"BTMIA AIRLINE OFFICE RENOVATION, ROTA AIRPORT (Formerly Freedom Air) CPA-RA-001-17."** One (1) original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **2 p.m. LOCAL TIME, November 30, 2017**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PREPARATION & PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS FOR FY 2016 AND 2017
MPLT RFP 17-02

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) is soliciting Request for Proposal (RFP) for Preparation & Publication of Annual Reports for MPLT for each fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Copy of the RFP is available @ **www.mplt.gov.mp** or may be pick-up at MPLT, 1222 Capital Hill Road, Saipan, MP 96950.

Office Hours: 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday

Contact Barbara Reyes at (670) 322-4401/4402 or email: mplt@mplt.gov.mp for more information.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
4:00 P.M., Wednesday, November 15, 2017

PLACE:
Marianas Public Land Trust
P.O. Box 501089
1222 Capital Hill Road
Saipan, MP 96950

The MPLT reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the Trust best interest.
All proposals shall become the property of MPLT.

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
PLATA DRIVE, WHISPERING PALMS (CHALAN KIYA)
P.O. BOX 502607 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: 670-2341615
FACSIMILE: 670-234-5749

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER JOHN B. BARRINEAU

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM R. BARRINEAU Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 17-0236 [Proposed] ORDER GRANTING REQUEST TO RESCHEDULE AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION Date: November 30, 2017 Time: 9:00am Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

Good cause appearing, the hearing in this matter on Petitioner's Petition for Letters of Administration currently scheduled for November 9, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. is hereby continued to the date and time above set forth.

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE WILLIAM R. BARRINEUE OR HIS ESTATE:
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **John B. Barrineau** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of William R. Barrineau, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all person, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **CHARITY R. HODSON**, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 7th day of November, 2017.
/s/ Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

Nation

Gleeful Democrats see political wave; GOP says not so fast

NEW YORK (AP)—Jubilant Democrats across America are declaring their big election victories in Virginia and New Jersey—their first of the young Trump era—mark the beginning of an anti-Trump surge that could re-shape the balance of power in Congress in 2018. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer says he can "smell a wave coming."

Not so fast, Republicans said Wednesday. But they acknowledged that setbacks in Virginia, New Jersey and elsewhere on Tuesday created new urgency for the GOP to fulfill its list of campaign promises before voters head back to the polls next year. They, along with President Donald Trump, have failed to demolish "Obamacare" and now are straining to approve a far-reaching tax overhaul despite controlling the White House and both houses of Congress.

"If anything, this just puts more pressure on making sure we follow through," House Speaker Paul Ryan said at an event hosted by the Washington Examiner. He added, "I think it simply means we've got to deliver."

Whether the president's party delivers or not, there is clear cause for concern for a Republican Party that would lose its House majority if Democrats gained 24 seats next fall.

Tuesday's results left little doubt that Trump's dismal approval ratings can drag down Republican allies, particularly those serving in states he lost last November. And even if his ratings show signs of improvement, history suggests that the first midterm elections for any new president often lead to major gains for the opposing party.

An early string of Republican retirement announcements in competitive districts across Florida, New Jersey and Arizona adds to the GOP's challenge.

"We're taking our country back from Donald Trump one election at a time," Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez said in a Wednesday conference call. "This is not just one night. It is a trend."

Added Schumer, the New York Democrat: "Our Republican friends better look out."

Trump declared that the blame for Tuesday's losses was not his.

"Ed Gillespie worked hard but did not embrace me or what I stand for," the president tweeted as he toured Asia.

Actually, Gillespie, a mainstream Republican who lost the Virginia governor's race, had taken up Trump-like positions on such issues as Confederate monuments, NFL players' national anthem demonstrations and the dangers of Hispanic gangs. Trump endorsed him but was not invited to campaign in the state in recent weeks.

Republican National Committee Chair Ronna Romney McDaniel had a different view from Trump's.

"I absolutely think any candidate should be embracing the president," she said, "and I think Ed did."

As for Tuesday's longer-term significance for the Democrats, both parties' leaders know that much can change in the year before voters decide the 2018 midterm elections. And Republicans enjoy a redistricting advantage that limits the number of truly competitive House races, thanks in large part to GOP routs during Barack Obama's eight years in office.

Also, Democrats wrestle with their own party strife, pitting the Bernie Sanders' wing against the more mainstream.

The liberal group Democracy for America had abandoned Virginia's gubernatorial candidate, Ralph Northam, over immigration policy, then celebrated his win days later. "The plus of a tidal wave like this is it washes away the stains of all the campaigns," Charles Chamberlain, DFA's executive director, said in an interview.

Republican Party leaders also expect their political outlook to improve dramatically once the GOP-led Congress takes action on taxes or health care.

Authorities review video of small-town Texas church attack

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS, Texas (AP)—Authorities have reviewed video from inside the small-town Texas church where a gunman killed more than two dozen people, including footage that shows the assailant shooting victims in the head during Sunday services, a U.S. official said Wednesday.

The official's account of the video is consistent with statements made by survivors of the attack. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

The same U.S. official confirmed that the attacker's cellphone was an iPhone and that the FBI had not yet asked Apple for help obtaining data from the device.

The church regularly recorded its services, and the footage investigators have seen shows several minutes of the attack because there was "no one to turn it off," according to a law enforcement official who has seen the video. The official also spoke on condition of anonymity because that person was not authorized to speak publicly about an ongoing investigation.

The law enforcement official was among those who went inside the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs after the attack and said several of the pews were overturned, although it was unclear if that was from the attack or from rescue efforts. Bullets had splintered the walls and pews, leaving shards of wood all over the floors.

Vice President Mike Pence arrived in Texas on Wednesday, visiting wounded victims at a San Antonio hospital and later meeting families of the dead in Floresville, not far from Sutherland Springs.

Pence went from table to table at a high school library attempting to console devastated family members.

"The whole country is praying over you," he told one man who lost his sister-in-law.

He stopped to talk with John Holcombe, whose family was decimated by the shooting. Holcombe, who suffered shrapnel wounds, lost his wife Crystal—who was pregnant with their first child—three of her children, his parents, a brother and a toddler niece.

Pence hugged 7-year-old Evelyn Holcombe, who managed to survive by running out of the church during the attack.

CNMI Diabetes Prevention and Control Program
#We WALK CNMI
Starting November, the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program in collaboration with the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition is launching #WeWalkCNMI! We want to encourage families as a whole to participate in something as simple as walking!
COME AND JOIN US IN YOUR PRECINCT:
November 14 - Tuesday 5:30pm-6:30PM Lau lau Pathway
November 14 – Tuesday 5:30pm-6:30PM Kammer Beach Pavilion (Tinian)
November 14 – Tuesday 5:30pm-6:30PM Sinapalo Baseball Field (Rota)
November 16 - Thursday 5:30pm-6:30PM Tanapag Middle School
November 21 – Tuesday 5:30pm-6:30PM Garapan Public Market
November 21 – Tuesday 5:30pm-6:30PM Coral Ocean Point
November 28 – Tuesday 5:30pm-6:30PM Dan Dan Baseball Field
November 30 – Thursday 5:30pm-6:30PM Oleai Pavilion
November 30 – Thursday 5:30pm-6:30PM Kilili Pavilion
live HEALTHY · live HAPPY · fight DIABETES
For more information please call the Non-Communicable Disease Bureau at 236-8710.

Asia

Trump criticizes 'one-sided' Chinese trade deals

BEIJING (AP)—President Donald Trump on Thursday criticized the "very one-sided and unfair" trade relationship between the U.S. and China, but stopped short of castigating Chinese President Xi Jinping by saying he doesn't blame the country for taking advantage of the U.S.

Speaking after the announcement of new business deals between U.S. and Chinese companies, Trump said the U.S. and China "must immediately address the unfair trade practices that drive" the trade deficit, along with barriers to market success, forced technology transfers and intellectual property theft.

AP

U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping shakes hands during a joint press conference at the Great Hall of the People, Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017, in Beijing.

"But I don't blame China," he said. "After all, who can blame a country for being able to take advantage of another country for the benefit of its citizens?

To applause, he said: "I give China great credit."

Trump's comments came during his second day in China and after lengthy meetings with Xi. The day included announcements that the U.S. and China had signed agreements valued at more than $250 billion for products including U.S.-made jet engines, auto parts, liquified natural gas and beef.

Such contract signings are a fixture of foreign leader visits to Beijing and are intended to defuse foreign complaints about China's trade policies. Many of the contracts signed Thursday appeared to represent purchases that Chinese mobile phone makers, airlines and other customers would have made anyway, but the signings were scheduled for Trump's visit.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Watchdog urges Asian summits to address rights crises

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Human Rights Watch has urged world leaders converging for annual summits in Southeast Asia to address the region's human rights crises led by the plight of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and what it calls the "murderous" anti-drug crackdown in the Philippines. The call made by the U.S.-based group on Thursday, however, will run against obstacles as the hosts of the summits of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Manila and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation in Vietnam are among leaders in the crosshairs of human rights watchdogs. Brad Adams from Human Rights Watch says leaders should agree on sanctions to pressure Myanmar to end abuses against the Rohingya and confront Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on his deadly crackdown. He asks them to raise concern over political persecutions in Vietnam.

Australian leaders at loggerheads over citizenship crisis

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's rival political leaders attacked each other on Thursday over the Parliament's citizenship crisis that is threatening to ensnare a growing number of lawmakers. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull wants opposition leader Bill Shorten to support his plan to make all lawmakers provide proof that they have not breached a constitutional ban on dual citizens sitting in Parliament. Any House of Representative lawmakers who are disqualified as a consequence of an undisclosed second nationality would be replaced at by-elections early next year, which could potentially change the government. But a day after a two-hour discussion on finding a bipartisan way forward, the two leaders remained divided. Shorten complained Thursday that Turnbull's citizenship test was inadequate and allowed lawmakers too much time to provide proof that they had not inherited another nationality from a parent or had renounced any other nationality.

Filipino doctor denies he financed New York bombing plots

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Filipino doctor accused by U.S. authorities of plotting attacks in New York City, including Times Square, appeared in a Manila court Tuesday and told reporters that money he sent to a charity was misconstrued as funds intended to finance the disrupted plots. Russell Salic smiled as he was led away in handcuffs by government agents after his brief appearance at the Manila court that is handling a U.S. extradition request, which he and his lawyer vowed to fight. "That's not true," Salic said when asked by reporters about the allegations. "I just donated money without any malicious intent." He said U.S. authorities may have mistaken the money he sent to a charity as funding for the plots. An FBI agent who posed as a Muslim online was behind the allegations against him, he said.

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. (Mobil) is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation – the world's largest publicly traded international oil and gas company, which holds an industry-leading inventory of resources and is one of the world's largest integrated refiners, marketers of petroleum products and chemical manufacturers. This is your opportunity to join this dynamic company and become part of the team that thrives in a fast-paced, controls-oriented environment as:

Aviation Refueller

Job Description:

Responsible for assisting the Aviation Depot Supervisor in the safe and proper handling, storage and movement of aviation products at the airport as well as dispensing aviation fuel into aircraft.

Location:

- Saipan Aviation Depot, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Job Duties:

- Support supply chain management and handling of aviation products in accordance with the company's systems, controls and procedures as well as government standards.
- Manage delivery and dispensing of clean, dry and on-specification fuel to aircraft safety and efficiently.
- Steward facility contractor's performance and execution of required deliverables.
- Support maintenance and repair work on company assets as required.
- Monitor stock levels of required aviation materials and manage stock replenishment in a timely manner.
- Perform regular tests and checks on fuels and equipment and accurate and up-to-date records of all findings.

Job Requirements:

- Experience in safe petroleum handling, storage and movement or related field
- At least a high school diploma or equivalent
- Understanding of aviation and federal regulations as applicable to petroleum handling, storage and distribution
- Candidates with prior work experience in aviation operations and general maintenance and repair activities will be preferred
- Willing and able to work both day and night shifts and occasionally work extended hours, and/or on weekends and public holidays
- Good interpersonal skills, ability to communicate effectively both verbally and in writing in English

If you are interested in and/or meet the qualifications for this position, please submit your resume on or before November 17, 2017 to the following:

Attention to:
Maria P. Kemp, Field Operations Manager-CNMI
P.O. Box 500367 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Fax: (670) 236-8190
Email: maria.kemp@exxonmobil.com

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net • Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at 8:00am in the CHCCC Conference Room #2, Garapan, Saipan.**

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (09/07/17)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
  A. Quarterly Declaration Report from Physician License #541
  B. Letter from Physician License #541
  C. Expiration of Board Member Dr. Martin Rohringer
VII. Director's Report
  A. Financial Report for FY 2018
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
X. Old Business:
  A. Draft Pharmacy Regulations – For Board approval
XI. New Business:
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Applications:
  B. Renewal Applications:
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with counsel with pending or anticipated legal matters.
  A. Complaint #17-01 (PDC)
  B. Case # 2017-002 (MMC)
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

RENE C. HOLMES
LAW OFFICE OF F. MATTHEW SMITH, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950-1127
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CONSOLACION NORITA TAISACAN, Deceased.	)	Civil Action No. 17-0263 **NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS** Date: Nov. 30, 1017 Time: 9:00 a.m. Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENTS OR OF THEIR ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Marty Norita Taisacan, has filed a Petition For Letters of Administration in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to Rule NMI R. of Prob. P. 15.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on November 30, 2017 at 9:00 am in Courtroom 220, Superior Court. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to NMI R. of Prob. P. 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Jennifer Dockter at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 31st day of October 2017.

/s/
RENE C. HOLMES (F0507)
Attorney for Petitioner

World

UK Cabinet minister quits over unauthorized Israel meetings

LONDON (AP)—In a new blow to Britain's beleaguered government, the U.K. international development secretary quit Wednesday over unauthorized meetings with Israeli politicians, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Priti Patel resigned after being ordered back from a trip to east Africa and summoned to 10 Downing St. by Prime Minister Theresa May. If she had not quit, she would almost certainly have been fired.

Patel is the second Cabinet departure in a week for a government facing crisis on several fronts, including divisions over Brexit and growing allegations of sexual misbehavior in politics.

Patel has been under pressure since it was revealed last week that she held 12 meetings with Israeli groups and officials, including Netanyahu, during a vacation in Israel in August—and that she hadn't told May or colleagues about it.

Patel apologized, but when details of two further meetings emerged, May acted.

In her resignation letter, Patel said her conduct "fell below the high standards that are expected of a secretary of state."

AP

International Development Secretary Priti Patel arrives at 10 Downing Street in London, Wednesday Nov. 8, 2017.

May replied that it was right Patel had decided to quit "and adhere to the high standards of transparency and openness that you have advocated."

Patel said earlier that her meetings in Israel—arranged by Stuart Polak, honorary president of the group Conservative Friends of Israel—stemmed from her "enthusiasm to engage." But critics accused her of breaching ministers' code of conduct and making a major diplomatic gaffe in a region of high political sensitivity.

Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported Wednesday that Patel visited an Israeli military field hospital in the Golan Heights during her August trip. Britain regards Israel as illegally occupying the territory, which it captured from Syria in 1967.

After the visit, Patel discussed with her department the possibility of British aid being given to the Israeli army to support medical assistance for refugees from the Syrian civil war arriving in the Golan Heights. A fellow minister has said the idea was rejected.

Patel's situation had been made worse by her contradictory statements about the meetings.

When news broke about the August trip, Patel insisted that Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson "knew about the visit." Her department was later forced to clarify the statement, saying "the foreign secretary did become aware of the visit, but not in advance of it."

Patel apologized, saying the meetings "did not accord with the usual procedures."

May summoned Patel to Downing St. after details of two more meetings emerged. She also met Israeli public security minister Gilad Erdan in London on Sept. 7 and foreign ministry official Yuval Rotem in New York on Sept. 18—in both cases without any other British officials present.

The demotion to backbench lawmaker cuts short a rapid rise for 45-year-old Patel, who was first elected to Parliament in 2010, became international development secretary in 2016 and has often been mentioned as a future leadership contender.

Labour Party lawmaker Jonathan Ashworth said Patel's position was untenable even if she had been unaware she was breaking rules when she met Netanyahu and the others.

"If she didn't know, she's incompetent. If she did, she's lying," he told Sky News. "Either way she's got to go."

Patel's departure is an unwelcome new headache for May, and follows the Nov. 1 resignation of Defense Secretary Michael Fallon after sexual harassment allegations against him emerged.

Several lawmakers have been suspended by their parties amid a growing scandal over sexual harassment and abuse in British politics. May's deputy prime minister, Damian Green, is facing a civil service investigation after a young party activist accused him of unwanted touches and text messages.

UN warns of massive famine if Yemen blockade is not lifted

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. humanitarian chief warned Wednesday that unless the Saudi-led military coalition lifts its blockade on Yemen the war-torn nation will face "the largest famine the world has seen for many decades, with millions of victims."

Mark Lowcock told reporters after briefing the U.N. Security Council behind closed doors that there must be an immediate resumption of regular air flights to the cities of Aden and Sanaa by the United Nations and its humanitarian partners. He said there also has to be immediate access to all ports, especially for food, fuel, medicine and other essential supplies.

The coalition tightened its blockade in Yemen this week after a ballistic missile fired by Houthi rebels was intercepted near the Saudi capital—an act condemned by Lowcock and the Security Council.

The U.N. said aid agencies were given no prior notice of the Saudi decision to shut down all land, air and seaports in Yemen.

Lowcock said he told the council that "there will be famine in Yemen" unless five steps are taken immediately.

"It will not be like the famine that we saw in South Sudan earlier in the year where tens of thousands of people were affected," he said. "It will not be like the famine which cost 250,000 people their lives in Somalia in 2011. It will be the largest famine the world has seen for many decades, with millions of victims."

He said the five immediate steps are:

- Resumption of air services.
- Assurances flights will not be disrupted.
- Opening of all ports to humanitarian and commercial vessels, especially those with critical supplies.
- Agreement to keep a U.N. World Food Program ship in waters off Aden.
- Halt to interference with all vessels that have passed inspection by the U.N. Verification and Inspection Mechanism "so that they can proceed to port as rapidly as possible."

Lowcock stressed the last point saying, "This is important because humanitarian access to the ports was inadequate even before the measures announced on Nov. 6" by the coalition.

Fuel crisis hits Yemen's capital as Saudis tighten blockade

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Hundreds of cars lined the main roads of Yemen's capital after the rebels who control the city ordered fuel stations to close on Wednesday, accusing merchants of taking advantage of a Saudi blockade to hike prices.

A Saudi-led military coalition tightened its blockade in Yemen this week after a ballistic missile fired by Houthi rebels was intercepted near the Saudi capital. Aid groups say the measures will exacerbate an already severe humanitarian crisis in the impoverished, war-torn country.

Fuel prices have spiked by 50 percent since Monday. Hassan al-Zaydi, a spokesman for the Houthi-run Oil Ministry, said merchants had refused orders to keep prices fixed, prompting authorities to shut the fuel stations down.

A U.N. official said aid agencies were given no prior notice of the Saudi decision to shut down all land, air and seaports in the country, and had learned about it from media.

"It will aggregate the already dire humanitarian situation," said George Khoury, the head of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Yemen.

"We want to be crystal clear to the international community. Any disruption will have catastrophic consequence on the lives of hundreds of thousands people and children," he said.

Later in the day, the U.N. humanitarian chief, Mark Lowcock, warned that if blockade continued, Yemen would face "the largest famine the world has seen for many decades, with millions of victims."

After briefing the U.N. Security Council behind closed doors, Lowcock called for a resumption of air flights into Yemen for the United Nations and its humanitarian partners, and he said there must be immediate access to all ports, especially for food, fuel, medicine and other essential supplies.

Every month, at least 7 million people depend on life-saving U.N. aid. Khoury said 10 U.N. ships in the Red Sea ports of Hodeida and nearby Salef have been ordered to depart.

A Saudi-led coalition has been at war with the Houthis, a Shiite group supported by Iran, since March 2015. Saudi Arabia blamed Saturday's missile strike on Iran, which supports the rebels but denies arming them.

The United States, which supports the coalition, echoed those allegations on Wednesday, saying Iran had supplied the rebels with advanced weapons, including ballistic missiles.

A White House statement condemned Iran's actions and voiced U.S. support to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf partners against Tehran's "blatant" violations of international law. The statement urged the United Nations to review evidence that Iran is perpetuating the war in Yemen to further its regional ambitions.

Saudi Arabia's crown prince has said that a ballistic missile fired at the kingdom on Saturday was a "direct military aggression by the Iranian regime." The White House statement did not refer specifically to the missile fired Saturday.

The coalition announced the closure of all ports in Yemen as of Monday. All humanitarian flights have been grounded, with trucks stuck at crossings and ships carrying basic necessities like fuel, wheat and other food being ordered to leave.

The Houthis control northern Yemen, including the capital. The internationally recognized government is based in Saudi Arabia, and its control over southern Yemen, which is also home to separatist groups and Islamic extremists, is limited.

The office of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, the head of the internationally recognized government, on Wednesday denied reports that Saudi Arabia has prevented him from returning to Yemen, calling them "lies."

Officials, including a top military commander close to Hadi, told The Associated Press that Saudi Arabia has prevented Hadi, his sons, officials and ministers from returning to Yemen. The ban was prompted by the bitter enmity between Hadi and the United Arab Emirates, a key coalition member, they said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

Off The Wall

4-foot-long lizard found in Southern California backyard

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP)—A lizard that can grow to be 8 feet long has been found in Southern California, thousands of miles from its native land, and authorities think it's a pet gone astray.

The 4-foot-long crocodile monitor was spotted sunning itself on top of a hedge Wednesday afternoon in the backyard of a Riverside home.

The crocodile monitor is a relative of the famous Komodo dragon. It's native to Papua New Guinea and Indonesia—not California—but it is legal to own them in the state.

It's green and yellow with big claws, a long tail and a forked tongue.

The big lizard is now being held by Riverside County's animal services division. If the owner doesn't claim it, the monitor will be sent to a sanctuary for exotic animals.

AP

In this still frame taken from video provided by the Riverside County Department of Animal Services, an employee holds a crocodile monitor, a lizard that can grow to eight feet long, in Riverside, Calif., Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017. The 4-foot-long crocodile monitor, a relative of the famous Komodo dragon, and native to Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, was spotted sunning itself on top of a hedge Wednesday afternoon in the backyard of a Riverside home.

Imitating 'Curb,' St. Louis man ticketed for honking at cop

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A St. Louis man is feeling pretty ... pretty ... pretty ... pretty miffed over a recent traffic ticket.

In an instance of life imitating art—in this case a recent episode of HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm"—computer programmer Scott Smith says he was ticketed for honking his horn at a police officer.

Smith told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch that he repeatedly honked at the officer in an unmarked car Friday because the light had turned green and the officer wasn't moving.

He was pulled over and used his cellphone to record the heated exchange with the plainclothes officer, who asked, "Is your horn stuck?" Smith replied: "Is your brake stuck?"

Smith was ticketed for excessive noise from a vehicle. He plans to file a formal complaint.

In the "Curb Your Enthusiasm" episode, Larry David's character was ticketed for honking at a police car at a stoplight.

Canadian Mounties arrest five naked suspects after kidnapping

NISKU, Alberta (AP)—Police arriving at a car crash in western Canada found five naked people inside, and ended up accusing them of kidnapping a mother, her father and her baby.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Cpl. Laurel Scott said the mother, baby and the woman's father had been taken from a home and forced into a vehicle against their will. While the car was being driven, the adult male, who was in the trunk, managed to escape. Shortly after that the woman escaped with the baby.

Authorities said a passer-by offered assistance and secured all three in his truck before the suspects' vehicle rammed the rear of the truck and ended up in the ditch.

Three adults among the suspects remained in custody facing charges of kidnapping and resisting arrest, police said. The other two suspects were youths and released without charges.

Officials said the three people who were kidnapped were not injured.

The investigation continued but officials believed drugs or alcohol might have been a factor.

Polish government asks its citizens to multiply like rabbits

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—The Polish government is encouraging citizens to go forth and multiply like rabbits.

The health ministry of Poland, which has one of the lowest birth rates in Europe, has put out a short video praising rabbits for producing many offspring.

The YouTube video shows rabbits munching on lettuce and carrots while a rabbit "narrator" reveals the secret of their big families—exercise, a healthy diet and little stress. The brief appearance of a human couple enjoying a romantic picnic hints that a little romance might help, and a wine glass turned upside down suggested an anti-alcohol message.

Viewers are told: "If you ever want to be a parent, follow the example of rabbits."

It is the latest step by the conservative government in this mostly Catholic country of 38 million to reverse a shrinking population. European Union figures show that Poland's birth rate was 1.32 children per woman in 2015. Only Portugal had a lower fertility rate, though the figures in Spain and Greece were almost as low as Poland.

The Health Ministry said in a statement to The Associated Press that it was trying to encourage Poles in their reproductive years—between the ages of 18 and 45—to adopt a healthy lifestyle that would improve their reproductive health.

It also said it was seeking to raise public awareness of the issue in a way that "did not offend anyone and was not vulgar."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

NASA seeks nickname for tiny, icy world on solar system edge

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Heads up, armchair travelers. NASA is seeking a nickname for a tiny, icy world on the edge of the solar system that's the next destination for New Horizons, the spacecraft that surveyed Pluto. New Horizons whipped past Pluto two years ago. Now it's headed for 2014 MU69—gobbledygook to even the most die-hard scientists. To lighten the mood as New Horizons aims for a 2019 flyby, the research team is holding a naming contest. The deadline is Dec. 1. MU69 is 4 billion miles (6.5 billion kilometers) away and may actually be two objects, either stuck together or orbiting one another. If so, two nicknames would be needed. The nicknames will be temporary. NASA said Monday that a formal name will come after the flyby.

Police: Thief didn't get far in motorized grocery store cart

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)—A man accused of stealing a motorized shopping cart from an Alaska grocery store didn't get very far or go very fast before his low-speed getaway attempt was foiled by police. The battery-operated cart with a basket mounted behind the handlebars has a top speed of 1.9 mph. Authorities say Rondell Tony Chinuhuk of Anchorage is charged with felony theft for attempting to take the cart early Tuesday from a Safeway store in Fairbanks. Police say they stopped Chinuhuk while he was crossing a thoroughfare following a 10-minute joyride that consisted mostly of trying to leave the expansive store parking lot. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reports Chinuhuk was charged with felony theft of the $2,500 cart. Assistant public defender Jennifer Hite says in an email the office doesn't comment on cases.

Screams of "Help!" draw 911 call, but parrot is the screamer

CLACKAMAS, Ore. (AP)—A deliveryman in Oregon who heard a woman's screams for help had his wife call 911, but when a deputy showed up it turned out the screamer was a parrot, not a woman. The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Tuesday that when Clackamas County Sheriff's Deputy Hayden Sanders showed up, all he found was Diego the Parrot. The green-and-yellow bird was in good health and no humans were involved.

Man charged with DUI after going to vote a day early

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—Police in Pennsylvania say they've arrested a man who showed up to an elementary school intoxicated and hoping to vote—on the wrong day. Authorities charged 34-year-old Douglas Shuttlesworth with a DUI after they found him at a school in Harrisburg on Monday. Police say Shuttlesworth appeared intoxicated and they later found out he drove to the school thinking it was Election Day. A woman who identified herself over the phone as Shuttlesworth's mother says her son mistakenly thought it was Tuesday. He was not available to comment on the charge.

Germany: police detain man hiding python in his pants

BERLIN (AP)—A young man detained by police during a drunken argument in Germany was found to be carrying a baby python in his pants, and may be in trouble under animal welfare laws. Police in the southwestern city of Darmstadt said the 19-year-old was detained on Tuesday night after a loud argument with another man disturbed residents. They said he was searched and officers noticed "a significant bulge in his trousers." The man told officers that he had a snake in his pants, and pulled out a 35-centimeter (14-inch) baby king python. He was taken to a police cell to sober up, and the snake put in a box. Police said Wednesday they were looking for the reptile's owner and examining whether "the non-species-appropriate transport" violated animal protection laws.

Police: Headset-wearing Dunkin' worker sold drugs on job

DENVER, Pa. (AP)—Police say a Pennsylvania Dunkin' Donuts worker sold methamphetamine and heroin on the job, in some cases while wearing his drive-thru window headset. Pennlive.com reports that 35-year-old Nathan Pizzardi of Denver, Lancaster County, faces felony drug counts. Police say Pizzardi would leave the store and make sales in the parking lot or at a nearby convenience store. They say he sold the drugs while wearing his Dunkin' Donuts uniform and headset. Pizzardi is jailed on $80,000 bail. Court documents don't list an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

Science & Technology

Uber reaches for the skies with plan for sleek flying taxi

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Commuters of the future could get some relief from congested roads if Uber's plans for flying taxis work out.

The ride-hailing service unveiled Wednesday an artist's impression of the sleek, futuristic machine it hopes to start using for demonstration flights in 2020. The company aims to have its first paying passengers in various cities around the world by 2023, though the plan still faces major hurdles.

A reference model for an aircraft that Uber could potentially use as part of its UberAir fleet.

UBER

The battery-powered aircraft looks like a cross between a small plane and a helicopter, with fixed wings and rotors. It was presented at an international technology conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

The vehicle is intended to soar over traffic congestion, sharply reducing city travel times. Uber hopes it will eventually become a form of mass transport and cost commuters less than using their own car, though initially it will be more expensive than that, Uber's Chief Product Officer Jeff Holden said.

The scheme still faces plenty of challenges, including certification of the new vehicle by authorities, pilot training and conceiving urban air traffic management systems that prevent collisions.

Holden said that Uber is joining NASA's project to expand air traffic systems, which scores of other companies already belong to.

He told The Associated Press in an interview that he has no dollar figure for the total investment. He said Uber is putting some of its own money into the project, developing software, while other investors are also involved, such as aircraft manufacturers that are developing the vehicle and real estate companies that are providing so-called 'skyports' where people will catch their airborne taxi.

Uber is keen to move on from a troubled period in which its image has been damaged by investigations that found rampant sexual harassment of employees and multiple reports of drivers assaulting passengers. Holden said those episodes did not slow development of the flying taxi project.

Windows 10 may cut speed of browsing

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Q: The latest version of Windows 10 seems to be reducing my internet speed. What can I do?

A: The newest versions of Windows 10 can slow down your internet browsing because of how they handle software updates and control the flow of data.

You can reduce the slowdowns by adjusting the latest incarnations, which are the Creators Update, introduced in April, and the Fall Creators Update, introduced in October.

The first thing to adjust is a Windows 10 feature called "auto-tuning," which debuted in 2016's Anniversary Update of the operating system. Auto-tuning makes the Windows app store more responsive to your PC's needs, but it does so by giving app downloads and updates priority use of your internet connection. Whenever app updates are active, your Web browsing will be slowed. You can correct this by disabling auto-tuning (see tinyurl.com/yawr6wry).

Another way to increase your Windows 10 internet speed is to change the "quality of service" settings within the operating system's "local group policy editor." You should set incoming internet data (called "inbound TCP traffic") to "maximum throughput."

Besides adjusting settings to increase your browsing speed, make sure you have the proper software drivers for the latest versions of Windows 10. For example, an internet slowdown could be caused by an outdated driver for your PC's network card. (To check, see tinyurl.com/y8hso6so).

It's also a good idea to check the other equipment that stands between you and the internet. If you use a wireless router, adjusting its Wi-Fi settings may speed up your Web browsing. See "modify the network configuration" at tinyurl.com/yawr6wry for specifics.

Q: My wife and I have been using Google's Picasa photo editing and sorting program on our laptops for years. The Picasa program on my computer still works, but the program on hers gives the error message "CBlockFile::Restore err=2,albums_index.db." Is this caused by Google's decision not to support Picasa any longer? If so, how can we get access to all the photos we have modified with Picasa? And, for the future, where can we find a replacement program?

A: The problem with your wife's laptop isn't caused by Google ending technical support for Picasa. It's the result of data corruption in the laptop's Picasa database, which contains the information for sorting and labeling photos.

Fortunately, that database can be rebuilt (see tinyurl.com/m487fs8), although some of your existing photo labeling information may be lost. (If you are asked to uninstall Picasa as part of rebuilding the database, make sure you have your original copy in your "downloads" folder so you can reinstall it. The program is no longer available online.)

Because your laptop's Picasa program has no problems, you can keep using it. Photos you stored in the online Picasa photo gallery are now in Google Photos (see tinyurl.com/oxcpvl5).

For potential Picasa replacements, see tinyurl.com/y98wkgrn and tinyurl.com/y9rzbwfn.

New looks come to Snapchat and Twitter in bid for more users

SAN FRANCISCO (AP—Struggling social-media darlings Twitter and Snapchat are taking on new looks as the services seek wider audiences in the shadow of Facebook.

Twitter is rolling out a 280-character limit for nearly all its users, abandoning its iconic 140-character limit for tweets. And Snapchat, long popular with young people, will undergo a revamp in hopes of becoming easier to use for everyone else.

Both services announced the moves Tuesday as they look for ways to expand beyond their passionate but slow-growing fan bases.

Twitter has said that 9 percent of tweets written in English hit the 140-character limit. People ended up spending more time editing tweets or didn't send them out at all. By removing that hurdle, Twitter is hoping people will tweet more, drawing more users in.

German bureaucrats—notorious for their ability to create lengthy tongue twisters consisting of one single word—celebrated Wednesday.

Germany's justice ministry wrote that it can now tweet about legislation concerning the transfer of oversight responsibilities for beef labeling.

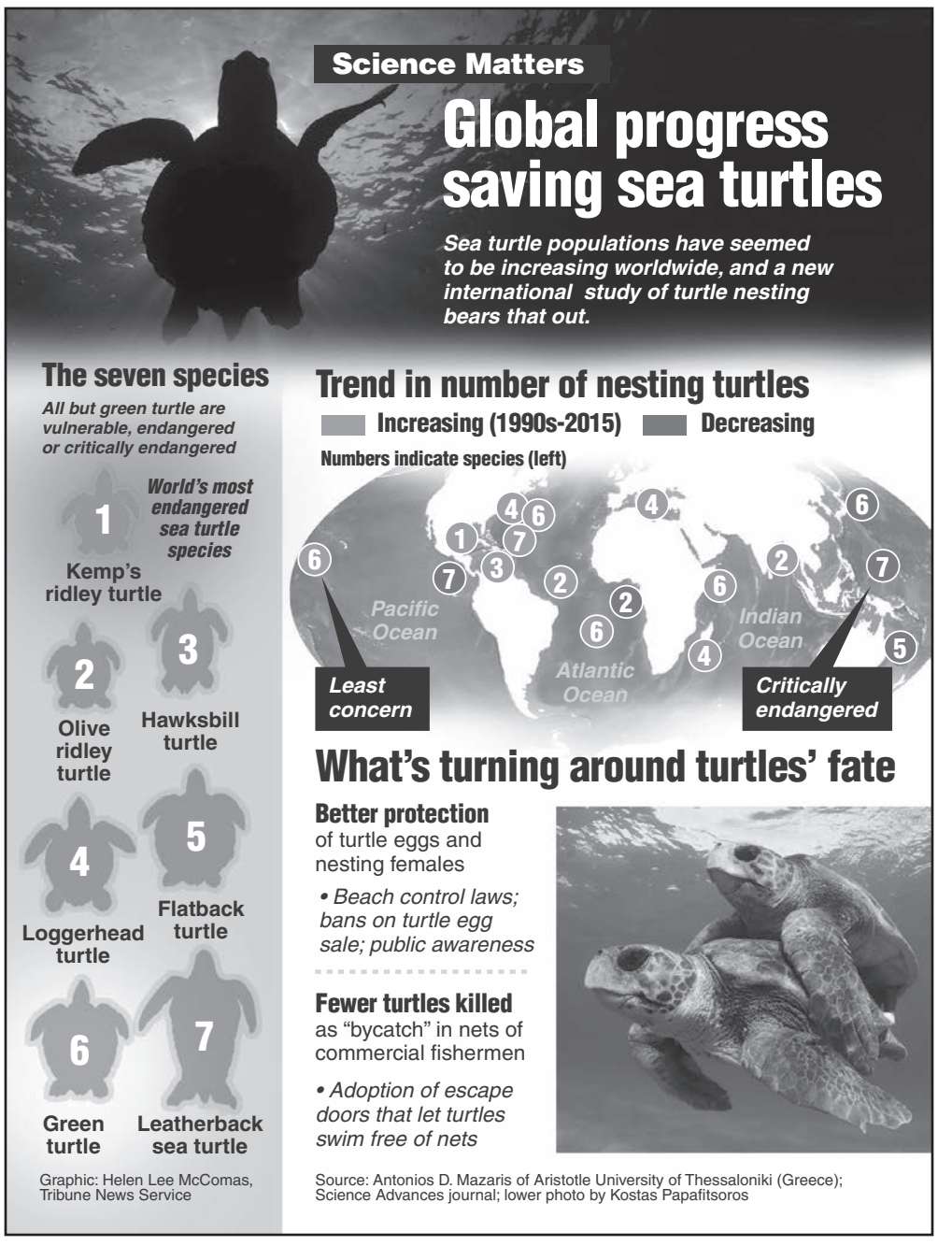
The law is known in German as the Rindfleischetikettierungsueberwachungsaufgabenuebertragungsgesetz.

Munich police, meanwhile, said that "at last" they won't need abbreviations to tweet about accidents involving forklift drivers, or Niederflurfoerderfahrzeugfuehrer.

In Rome, student Marina Verdicchio said the change "will give us the possibility to express ourselves in a totally different way and to avoid canceling important words when we use Twitter."

Others were not impressed, including at least one who quoted Shakespeare: "Brevity is the soul of wit."

And, as Snap Inc. CEO Evan Spiegel noted, change does not come without risk.


Science Matters
Global progress saving sea turtles
Sea turtle populations have seemed to be increasing worldwide, and a new international study of turtle nesting bears that out.
The seven species
All but green turtle are vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered
1 World's most endangered sea turtle species
Kemp's ridley turtle
2 Olive ridley turtle
3 Hawksbill turtle
4 Loggerhead turtle
5 Flatback turtle
6 Green turtle
7 Leatherback sea turtle
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
Trend in number of nesting turtles
Increasing (1990s-2015)
Decreasing
Numbers indicate species (left)
Pacific Ocean
Atlantic Ocean
Indian Ocean
Least concern
Critically endangered
What's turning around turtles' fate
Better protection of turtle eggs and nesting females
• Beach control laws; bans on turtle egg sale; public awareness
Fewer turtles killed as "bycatch" in nets of commercial fishermen
• Adoption of escape doors that let turtles swim free of nets
Source: Antonios D. Mazaris of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece); Science Advances journal; lower photo by Kostas Papafitsoros

Life & Style

Female directors are ready to topple an ignoble Oscar stat

This combination photo shows, from left, Patty Jenkins, who directed "Wonder Woman," Kathryn Bigelow, who directed "Detroit," Greta Gerwig, who directed "Lady Bird," and Dee Rees, who directed "Mudbound." AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Four.

It's one of the most glaring numbers in Academy Awards history. That's how many women have been nominated for best director in the awards' 89 years of existence. Kathryn Bigelow, for "The Hurt Locker" in 2010, is the only woman to win.

"I have to say it really bums me out," says Greta Gerwig, whose solo directorial debut, "Lady Bird," opened last week in limited release. "Every year I see the list of people who are in the running for best director. Kathryn Bigelow got in—that's one. Every year they nominate five guys. Every year. And four women have been nominated in the history of the Academy Awards. That's ridiculous. And it pisses me off."

This year, those lists may be different—or, at least, it will be especially confounding if they aren't.

Gerwig's sharply observed coming-of-age tale "Lady Bird," for one, is among the most acclaimed films of the year. Patty Jenkins' summer sensation "Wonder Woman" was a runaway hit with both audiences and critics. Next week, Dee Rees will release her Sundance Film Festival hit, the Mississippi period drama "Mudbound." Handicapping for March's Academy Awards is early, but each—particularly Gerwig and "Lady Bird"—is considered among the possible nominees for best picture and for best director.

While Hollywood has been overrun with the Harvey Weinstein scandal and the harsh light it has thrown on widespread gender imbalances throughout the industry, movie screens nationwide have been aglow with ambitious films by female directors who are beating the odds stacked against them.

Oscar nominations won't change the overwhelming maleness of the industry, where greenlighting executives, top agents and academy members (despite recent efforts to reshape membership) remain overwhelmingly male. The discrepancy is particularly pronounced behind the camera, where women comprised only seven percent of directors on the 250 highest-grossing domestic releases in 2016, according to an annual study by the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University. That's two percentage points less than in 1998.

But as the "OscarsSoWhite" protest of recent years has shown, the Academy Awards can throw a spotlight on wider industry inequality.

"The severe gender imbalance strikes me as a source of considerable potential embarrassment for the academy," said film professor Martha Lauzen, author of the San Diego State study. "Typically, a few high-profile individuals can skew our perceptions about how members of a certain group are faring but result in little, if any, substantial change. This year could prove to be unique in that nerves regarding this issue are raw."

Long before hundreds of women began coming forward with allegations of sexual harassment and assault against Weinstein, director James Toback, producer Brett Ratner and many others, 2017 has been a movie year in many ways defined by female filmmakers. Bigelow, who thought her Oscar win would lead to some industry change, released her powerful race riot docudrama "Detroit." Sofia Coppola, one of the four ever nominees (Lina Wertmuller and Jane Campion are the others), became just the second woman to win the directing prize at the Cannes Film Festival (another cinema institution with a poor track record of gender balance) for her point-of-view-flipping Civil War drama "The Beguiled."

But there have been many more, too, including the astonishing festival selection "The Rider" by Chloe Zhao (Sony Pictures Classics will release it next year), Angelina Jolie's intimate Cambodian genocide drama (Cambodia's Oscar submission), Rebecca Miller's tender documentary of her father, the playwright Arthur Miller (set to air next year) and Angela Robinson's Wonder Woman origin story "Professor Marston and the Wonder Women." It's worth noting that both "Detroit" and "Professor Marston" were released by Megan Ellison's Annapurna Pictures, one of the few female-led powerhouse production companies in Hollywood.

Robinson, noting the record-setting box office for Jenkins' "Wonder Woman" (its $821.8 million worldwide gross is the most for a movie directed by a woman) has felt a hint of change is in the air.

"I do feel like there's some give. Usually I feel like I'm banging against a rock wall," says Robinson. "I do feel that there is a kind of energy and a kind of galvanizing anger happening that's demanding that there be more representation of voices."

Rees, whose breakout film "Pariah" was about a 17-year-old lesbian African-American woman coming to terms with her identity, believes awareness for gender imbalance in the industry has increased but the day-to-day reality is still very much "a work in progress."

"Until it's a non-story, you know we're not there yet," said Rees.

It's especially fitting that this year has also brought a new film from 89-year-old Agnes Varda, the Belgian-born filmmaking legend who was one of the leading directors of the French New Wave. Her road-trip odyssey "Faces Places," co-directed with the street artist JR, took Cannes' documentary award, and it has since ranked among the most celebrated movies of the year.

Commentary on killings draws strength through repetition

Derrick Bernoden burns sage at a makshift memorial for the First Baptist Church victims Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017, in Sutherland Springs, Texas. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—A satirical website is responsible for one of the starkest commentaries on mass killings, and it draws its power through repetition.

After the Texas church shooting this week, The Onion posted for the sixth time a variation of the same article headlined: "'No Way to Prevent This,' Says Only Nation Where This Regularly Happens."

The article changes datelines—this time it was Sutherland Springs, Texas—and a few details to reflect which tragedy was most recent. But its centerpiece quote, each time from a different fictitious person, remains the same.

This week's post: "This was a terrible tragedy, but sometimes these things just happen and there's nothing anyone can do to stop them," said Kansas resident Britt Mulvanos, echoing sentiments expressed by tens of millions of individuals who reside in a nation where over half of the world's deadliest mass shootings have occurred in the past 50 years and whose citizens are 20 times more likely to die of gun violence than those of other developed nations. "It's a shame, but what can we do? There really wasn't anything that was going to keep this individual from snapping and killing a lot of people if that's what they really wanted."

The Onion's editors wouldn't talk about the article. But the fifth version, written after the massacre at a country music concert in Las Vegas last month, was the most-read piece on the site in October, a company spokesman said.

"It certainly gets people's attention," said Avery Gardiner, co-president of the Brady Campaign & Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

The first time the piece was posted was in May 2014, after six people were killed in Isla Vista, an unincorporated community near the campus of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The Onion piece shares with television comics John Oliver and Trevor Noah an ability to point out absurdities at the heart of an issue, said Kyle Pope, editor and publisher of the Columbia Journalism Review.

"Mainstream journalism has a hard time figuring out how to convey that," Pope said. "They step into that, and they do it very effectively."

Indeed, a weariness seeps into traditional reporting of such events with the realization that there will likely be no legislative response. An effort to ban bump stocks, a device that increases the lethality of semi-automatic rifles, seemed to dissipate quickly following the Las Vegas shooting.

On such occasions, non-traditional storytelling forms tend to stand out within mainstream journalism, Pope said. He noted how The New York Times used graphics and cellphone video on its website to convey the scope and horror of the Las Vegas killing.

The story angles, the follow-ups, otherwise start to feel the same—a point the Onion makes with its fill-in-the-numbers repeats.

Only the time frame of the statistic quoted changes with the conclusion of each Onion posting: "At press time, residents of the only economically advanced nation in the world where roughly two mass shootings have occurred every month for the past eight years were referring to themselves and their situation as "helpless."

Garth Brooks wins entertainer of the year at CMA Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

Garth Brooks continued his winning streak as entertainer of the year at the 2017 Country Music Association Awards, beating out Luke Bryan and Keith Urban.

Brooks, who has won the top prize six times, also beat Chris Stapleton and Eric Church on Wednesday at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee.

"We're a family," he said about the country music community when accepting the honor.

Though he ended the awards show on a happy note, the night was marked by emotional and political moments.

Carrie Underwood broke down while singing during the "In Memoriam" section after photos of the 58 people who died at a country music festival in Las Vegas were shown. Little Big Town's Kimberly Schlapman quoted Maya Angelou when the foursome won vocal group of the year, while bandmate Karen Fairchild told the audience, "Kindness is an attractive quality."

"Tonight should be about harmony, about what we can do together to change things," Fairchild said.

That sentiment was present throughout the three-hour show, which aired on ABC.

While paying tribute to Charley Pride, filmmaker Tyler Perry said now is the time we have to all "find some common ground." And the show opened with a performance by Church, Urban, Darius Rucker and Lady Antebellum honoring the victims of the recent mass shootings, as well as the tens of thousands of people affected by hurricanes in recent months.

Keith Urban earned a rousing applause when he debuted a song called "Female," which he said was inspired by the dozens of allegations of sexual assault and harassment against Harvey Weinstein.

The CMA Awards also paid tribute to some of the genre's brightest stars who have passed away. Glen Campbell, who died in August, was honored during a touching performance of "Wichita Lineman" by Little Big Town and Jimmy Webb, who wrote the song.

Rascal Flatts and Dierks Bentley also paid homage to Troy Gentry, one-half of the popular country duo Montgomery Gentry, who died in a helicopter crash in September. Eddie Montgomery later joined in for the performance of "My Town," as some audience members sang along with tears in their eyes.

"This has been a year marked my tragedy ... Tonight we're going to do what families do, come together, pray together, cry together and sing together, too," said Underwood, who co-hosted the show.

"This show is dedicated to all those we lost," fellow host Brad Paisley said.

Paisley and Underwood celebrated their 10-year anniversary—as hosts of the CMAs. They joked at the top of the show about CMA sending restrictions to press about what to ask singers on the red carpet, saying they shouldn't ask about politics or guns. They also riffed on politics, taking shots at both President Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.

"Maybe next time he'll think before he tweets," they sang to the beat of Underwood's massive hit, "Before He Cheats."

One person they didn't joke about was Taylor Swift. And though Swift is releasing her second pop album this week, she's still being awarded for her contributions to country music.

Swift won song of the year—awarded to songwriters—for penning Little Big Town's No. 1 hit, "Better Man." Swift will release her sixth album, "reputation," on Friday.

"She couldn't be here tonight but Taylor, wherever you are, thank you for this beautiful song," Fairchild said onstage.

Swift wasn't the only pop star who had a presence at the CMAs. Pink sang her slow tune "Barbie," backed by several musicians and singers, while One Direction's Niall Horan performed a duet with Grammy-winning singer Maren Morris, fitting right in with the country crowd and showcasing his singer-songwriter side.

Winners at the show included Miranda Lambert (female vocalist of the year), Brothers Osborne (vocal duo of the year) and Jon Pardi (new artist of the year). Campbell and Willie Nelson won musical event of the year for "Funny How Time Slips Away."

'Friends' star Aniston makes TV return with Witherspoon

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Friends" star Jennifer Aniston is coming back to television and she's partnering with Reese Witherspoon.

Aniston

The Apple streaming service said Wednesday the actresses will star in and produce a behind-the-scenes drama series about a TV morning show.

Aniston came to fame as Rachel on the hit NBC comedy "Friends," which aired from 1994 to 2004. She then focused on films, including "Office Space," ''Bruce Almighty" and "Marley & Me."

The Oscar-winning Witherspoon ("Walk the Line") made a TV splash last season with HBO's Emmy-winning series "Big Little Lies," which she starred in and produced with Nicole Kidman.

The new series marks a TV reunion for its stars: Witherspoon and Aniston played sisters on an episode of "Friends."

Landing the buzzed-about project represents a coup for Apple, which said it's ordered two seasons but didn't announce the show's title, release date or whether the shows will be distributed on iTunes or a different platform.

Witherspoon

The series was described by Apple as "an inside look at the lives of the people who help America wake up in the morning, exploring the unique challenges faced by the women (and men) who carry out this daily televised ritual."

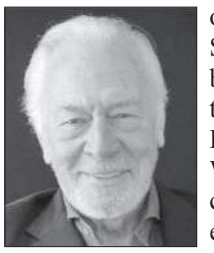
It will draw on "Top of the Morning: Inside the Cutthroat World of Morning TV" by Brian Stelter, CNN senior media correspondent. The 2013 book relates the rivalry between NBC's "Today" and ABC's "Good Morning America."

Stelter is a consultant on the drama, and Jay Carson ("House of Cards") is writing the pilot and is an executive producer along with Witherspoon and Aniston.

The show and Steven Spielberg's reboot of his "Amazing Stories" 1980s anthology series are the first two original dramas ordered by Apple and follow the hiring earlier this year of Zack Van Amburg and Jamie Erlicht to oversee video content.

Christopher Plummer to replace Kevin Spacey in Getty film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In a wholly unprecedented move, Kevin Spacey is being cut from Ridley Scott's finished film "All the Money in the World" and replaced by Christopher Plummer just over one month before it's supposed to hit theaters.

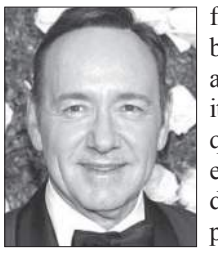

Plummer

People close to the production who were not authorized to speak publicly said Wednesday that Plummer is commencing reshoots immediately in the role of J. Paul Getty. All of Spacey's scenes will be reshot, the people told The Associated Press. Co-stars Mark Wahlberg and Michelle Williams are expected to participate.

Scott, who is known to be an efficient director, is intending to keep the film's Dec. 22 release date.

The director's publicist Simon Halls confirmed the switch late Wednesday.

The film was originally set to have its world premiere at the AFI Fest in Los Angeles on Nov. 16 but was pulled earlier this week amid the sexual harassment reports surrounding Spacey, who has also been fired from "House of Cards" and dropped by his talent agency and publicist.


Spacey

"All the Money in the World" was primed for a plush awards season release from distributor Sony Pictures Entertainment and its advertising campaign, which prominently features Spacey, has been public for about a month already. But its plans have been in question since Spacey's reputation has diminished over the past week with harassment allegations growing daily.

The film chronicles the events surrounding the kidnapping of 16-year-old John Paul Getty III and his mother's attempt to convince J. Paul Getty, his billionaire grandfather, to pay the ransom.

Sister takes friend to task for missing brother's funeral

DEAR ABBY: I missed the funeral of a long-time family friend, "Tom," because I foolishly relied on one of my relatives to let me know when the service was and she didn't. I had to go out of town two days after Tom died, but I should have called someone before I left so I could revise my travel plans. I was so sure my family would let me know.

Out of embarrassment, I compounded the mistake by not contacting Tom's sister when I returned two days later and realized I had missed everything. When I finally spoke with her, she was furious with me, for which I don't blame her. When I tried to explain, she misconstrued everything I tried to say and accused me of "just making excuses." She went on and on for so long I was shocked by how upset she was.

I'm not an important person to Tom's family even though he was special to me, so I'm not sure why she's so upset with me. I don't know what to do because the more I try to communicate, the more irrational she gets.

I'm mourning Tom, who was like an uncle to me, and I want to make it up to his family. He had been sick for a long time, so his death wasn't a surprise. I see some of his relatives quite often and I don't know how to approach them when I see them next. Any ideas?

ANGUISHED IN NEW YORK

DEAR ANGUISHED: Attendance at funerals is not compulsory. Your reason for missing Tom's funeral was legitimate. Many people skip funerals because they prefer to remember the deceased as they were instead of in a coffin. Tom's sister is grieving for her brother and taking her pain out on you. What she said was out of line and you do not have to apologize further.

When you see the other family members, extend your condolences, tell them you were out of town at the time of his funeral and that you are sorry you were unable to be there to support them. Period.

DEAR ABBY: My husband of 17 years has been cheating on me and is continuing to cheat. His older sister also cheated on her husband for many years with multiple men, so cheating must run in their DNA.

Because of our unhappy marriages, my brother-in-law and I began talking, sharing our pain and regret about marrying the wrong people. Because of our conversations we became friends and soulmates. We both have deep wounds no one else understands. Ultimately, we became physically attracted to each other.

Is it wrong that we are falling in love? Both of us want to be legitimately together, but at the same time we are afraid family around us will reject us.

CHEATING FAMILY

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR CHEATING FAMILY: Why would the family around you reject you? What has happened is understandable. Surely the family is aware that both your spouses have cheated for years. I would, however, caution that it would be better for you two to avoid acting on your physical attraction until after you have both filed for divorce -- not only to protect each other's reputations but also because cheating does not run in YOUR DNA.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

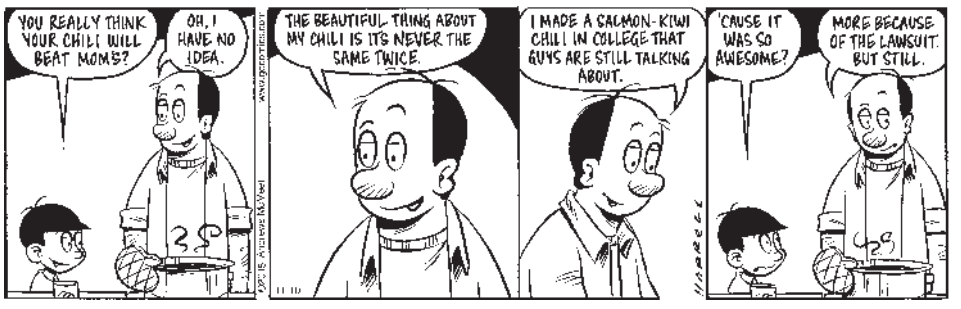
HI, MOM.
BUM BA DA BUM BUM
WHAT'S COOKING?
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
I THOUGHT MY LIFE WOULD SEEM MORE INTERESTING WITH A MUSICAL SCORE AND A LAUGH TRACK.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU REALLY THINK YOUR CHILI WILL BEAT MOM'S?
OH, I HAVE NO IDEA.
THE BEAUTIFUL THING ABOUT MY CHILI IS IT'S NEVER THE SAME TWICE.
I MADE A SALMON-KIWI CHILI IN COLLEGE THAT GUYS ARE STILL TALKING ABOUT.
'CAUSE IT WAS SO AWESOME?
MORE BECAUSE OF THE LAWSUIT. BUT STILL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

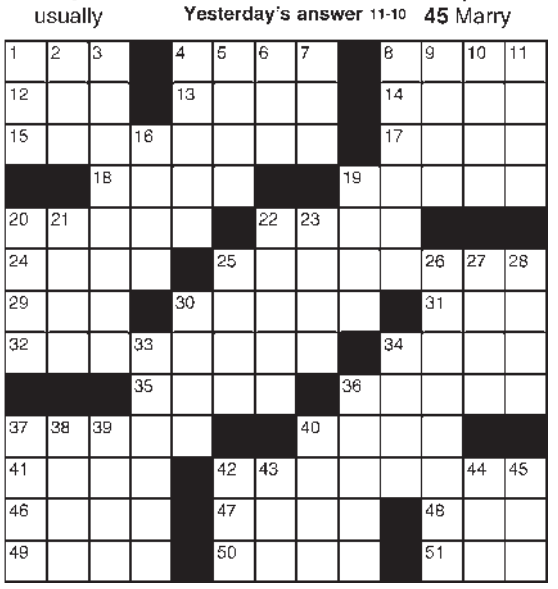
ACROSS
1 Japanese sash
4 Twitches
8 Pile
12 Campaigned
13 Medicinal plant
14 Lighten
15 Solvency source
17 Say it's so
18 Lummoxes
19 Coffee add-in
20 Slugger Sosa
22 Quarrel
24 — Christian Andersen
25 Daytime TV fare
29 "Entourage" role
30 Daphnis' love
31 — -de-France
32 London airport
34 Lure
35 Subject, usually
36 Prom dresses
37 Underneath
40 Bailiwick
41 Oodles
42 Strong current
46 Biography
47 Labyrinth
48 Shade
49 Gym pads
50 Quick look
51 Help

DOWN
1 Tolkien monster
2 Sheepish remark
3 Inability to sleep
4 Stretchy candy
5 Misfortunes
6 Bill's partner
7 Stitch
8 Vital organs
9 Roof overhang
10 Cruising
11 Salon request
16 Easter entrees
19 Birthday party must-have
20 Persian bigwig
21 Swiss river
22 Stylist's shop
23 Oxen's burden
25 Drive-— window
26 Longfellow subject
27 Actress Lena
28 Saturates
30 Grub
33 Govt. securities
34 Afrikaner
36 From Athens
37 Soother
38 Lamb alias
39 Barn storage area
40 Woodshaping tool
42 Ref
43 Scot's refusal
44 French "yes"
45 Marry

Solution time: 25 mins.

L	I	M	B		A	R	C		A	V	I	D
A	B	E	L		B	I	O		V	E	'	O
L	I	E	U		Y	A	M		I	R	O	N
A	S	T	E	R	S		P	R	A	Y		
			J	D	S	A		I	N	G	E	R
L	U	C	A	S		L	E	G		O	R	E
A	H	C	Y		S	I	X		D	O	M	E
D	O	L		T	A	N		P	E	D	A	L
D	H	L	A	W	R	E	N	C	E			
		I	F	A	D		E	S	P	R	I	T
M	I	D			I	S	P		S	O	S	O
A	M	E	S		N	E	A		E	L	L	E
N	O	S	H		E	E			A	L	E	S

Yesterday's answer 11-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Miranda Lambert, 34; Ellen Pompeo, 48; Tracy Morgan, 49; Michael Jai White, 50.

Happy Birthday: Mull over what you want to achieve and consider how to best reach your destination. Don't expect others to see things your way. Sensitive issues will surface that will require your undivided attention. Choose intelligence over brute force in order to find common ground and a way to get what you want without disrupting your relationships. Your numbers are 3, 14, 25, 29, 32, 37, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Getting together with friends will brighten your day. Don't let little things upset you. Work alongside someone you love even if he or she is being difficult. It's easier to use the power of persuasion if you do so lovingly. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Generosity will not help you get ahead. Don't feel you have to donate to something because someone else does. Take care of home and family before you offer your time, energy and money to an outsider. Concentrate on personal growth. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* You can stabilize your situation at home by offering to compromise in order to get what you want in return. A unique solution someone offers may sound good, but weigh the pros and cons before you accept. Aim for equality. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Helping others will give you a sense of belonging. Your input will be valued and spark an idea. Consider a growing demand or trend in your community and elaborate on how best to turn your services into a moneymaking endeavor. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Focus on what counts. Make personal changes instead of trying to change someone else. Giving freedom to others will allow you the same privilege in return. Take better care of your health and your love life. Compassion and understanding will be necessary. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't get caught in a bureaucratic situation. Get your papers in order and update important documents that you may need to access quickly. Being proactive will help you avoid losing control of a domestic situation. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Engage in activities that make you feel good and walk away from people who don't. Choose how you want to spend your time and venture down the path that is in your best interest. Look forward to what's next and leave the past behind you. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Be practical when it comes to money matters. Refuse to let emotional spending contribute to your stress. Excessive behavior or spending money on someone in order to make an impression will lead to a loss. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A health concern will surface if you don't take better care of yourself. Proper diet and exercise will be necessary to avoid a chronic problem. Discipline and self-awareness will help you overcome temptation. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Not everyone will be happy with the decisions you make. Partnerships will be on shaky ground and disappointment is apparent. Avoid getting into a debate. Wait until you have proof that you made the right choice. Keep the peace. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take emotional and financial matters seriously. Stress will lead to ill health and will escalate a situation that is already on shaky ground. Use your intelligence and do whatever it takes to physically improve any situation that disturbs you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Business trips and communication are highlighted, but be careful not to give anyone access to your personal information or passwords. Caution should be taken when dealing with your peers. Look inward for answers. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are proactive, emotional and astute. You are creative and appealing.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9								1
	5	2		6		4	9	
				3				
			5		7			
	9	5				1	6	
			6		4			
				5				
	3	9		2		6	8	
4								2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	7	4	3	6	1	9	2	8
9	2	1	8	5	7	3	4	6
8	6	3	9	2	4	5	7	1
7	5	6	4	1	8	2	3	9
3	4	8	2	9	5	1	6	7
2	1	9	6	7	3	8	5	4
4	9	7	1	3	2	6	8	5
1	3	5	7	8	6	4	9	2
6	8	2	5	4	9	7	1	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

IT'S DRIPPING Solution: 8 letters

E	N	O	M	E	L	A	Z	Z	I	P	U	R	Y	S
P	N	F	R	T	R	A	I	N	Y	E	N	O	H	E
I	A	O	A	A	A	K	R	O	W	T	R	A	S	L
P	Y	I	C	U	N	E	S	O	N	O	M	E	I	C
L	V	S	N	K	C	G	W	I	A	P	E	Q	L	I
E	A	C	E	T	L	E	E	S	O	H	U	E	Y	C
M	R	E	F	R	U	I	T	O	C	I	W	C	R	I
A	G	O	L	I	O	C	M	H	D	O	N	U	T	E
R	D	L	O	C	H	A	I	R	T	Y	S	A	S	M
A	T	A	F	F	I	C	N	D	H	E	R	S	A	I
C	S	R	E	E	K	S	A	N	C	K	A	K	P	L
C	O	F	F	E	E	X	P	U	A	R	E	A	O	S
A	A	T	N	O	F	B	A	O	E	U	T	U	O	M
Y	K	C	I	R	E	T	A	W	P	T	M	E	L	T
I	C	I	N	G	L	U	C	O	S	E	K	A	C	G

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Artwork, Beef, Cake, Caramel, Cheese, Chicken, Coffee, Cold, Cone, Donut, Fat, Faucet, Font, Fruit, Glucose, Glue, Gravy, Hair, Honey, Icicles, Icing, Icky, Lemon, Liquid, Makeup, Mascara, Melt, Milk, Nose, Oil, Orange, Paint, Pan, Pastry, Peach, Pipe, Pizza, Pool, Popsicle, Rain, Roast, Roof, Sauce, Shampoo, Slime, Soak, Sweat, Syrup, Tap, Tears, Towel, Turkey, Water, Wax, Wound

Yesterday's Answer: Wrinkled

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Cowboys owner Jones threatens to sue NFL

NEW YORK (AP)—Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones has threatened to sue the NFL over a proposed contract extension for Commissioner Roger Goodell, a dispute apparently sparked by star running back Ezekiel Elliott's six-game suspension over alleged domestic violence, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Jones told the six owners on the compensation committee he had hired high-profile attorney David Boies and was prepared to sue if the group voted to extend Goodell's deal, the person told the AP. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no one has been authorized to reveal details.

Jones also has expressed disapproval with the structure and compensation in the contract extension, another person familiar with the proposed lawsuit says. That person also spoke on condition of anonymity for the same reason.

The actions of Jones were first reported by The New York Times.

All 32 owners voted in May to extend Goodell's contract and authorized the compensation committee to work out the details. Goodell suspended Elliott in August after a yearlong NFL investigation. Prosecutors in Ohio declined to pursue the domestic violence case.

Jones

Jones, who is not on the compensation committee but is one of the most powerful owners in the league, has expressed frustration over the NFL's pursuit of criminal matters with its own investigators.

Asked on his radio show last week if he wanted Goodell to remain commissioner, Jones avoided a direct answer and said Elliott was a "victim of an overcorrection" because of the NFL's mishandling of former Baltimore running back Ray Rice's domestic case involving his then-fiancee.

Goodell's initial suspension of two games was sharply criticized because of a video showing Rice dragging an unconscious Janay Palmer from an elevator. Another video later surfaced of Rice punching Palmer in the face, and he was suspended indefinitely. The suspension was lifted by an arbitrator, but Rice never signed with another team.

"I can show you many positive things that this commissioner, Roger, has done, is doing and I can show you some of the things that he wants to take back," Jones said on his radio show Oct. 31.

"This is a very example of it. I'm sure he'd like to take back his initial Ray Rice stance and a few others. He's in the process of having tried to correct that and in doing so, Zeke is a victim of an overcorrection."

The NFL hired former New York prosecutor Lisa Friel to help shape the stronger policy on domestic violence that came out of the Rice incident. The updated policy included the league's ability to investigate cases on its own regardless of law enforcement's involvement.

Prosecutors in Elliott's case cited conflicting evidence when deciding not to pursue the case. The NFL's probe continued for a year after that decision. Jones said his running back has been treated unfairly, and Elliott has denied the allegations of his ex-girlfriend under oath.

"I am very troubled by the swings that we've had," Jones said on his radio program. "His swing of judgment has been unbelievable from the Ray Rice thing all the way up to one or two games, all the way to the six-game suspension when you've truly got a debate. In our legal system it has to be stronger than that for somebody who has done it."

World Cup qualifying tournament reaching its climax

ZURICH (AP)—The lineup of teams at the World Cup in Russia will be confirmed over the next week.

Here's a look at the two-leg European and intercontinental playoffs matches, as well as how African qualifying is shaping up:

Northern Island vs Switzerland

Northern Ireland is within reach of its first World Cup in 32 years after hitting its target of second place in a group won by defending champion Germany.

Switzerland, ranked No. 4 in August, finds itself in a tense playoff despite nine straight wins to start qualifying.

Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic was still looking back to the 2-0 loss at Portugal last month, saying he had imagined playing a "nice friendly" game this week. He acknowledged his team was too passive against Portugal, and challenged players he did not identify to take more responsibility now.

Croatia vs Greece

Greece is bidding to reach a major tournament again after an embarrassing qualification campaign for the 2016 European Championship.

Without defender Kostas Manolas, who is banned from the first leg, the Greeks will play at Croatia on Thursday and then host the return match on Sunday.

Manolas is out because FIFA suspended him for trying to manipulate his disciplinary record by deliberately earning a yellow card against Cyprus on Oct. 7. The decision compounded problems for coach Michael Skibbe, who is missing midfielder Petros Mantalos and striker Tasos Donis because of injury.

Sweden vs Italy

Four-time champion Italy has participated in every World Cup since failing to qualify for the 1958 tournament, which coincidentally was held in Sweden.

But Italy has showed poor form recently, ever since a 3-0 loss to Spain in September. After that match, Italy edged Israel 1-0, drew 1-1 with Macedonia and beat Albania 1-0.

While Sweden didn't qualify for the last two World Cups, it impressed in qualifying with a win over France and finished ahead of the Netherlands.

"We are winners just by being here," Sweden coach Janne Andersson said.

The first leg will be in Sweden on Friday, with the return match on Monday in Italy.

Denmark vs Ireland

Being in the playoffs for a major tournament is nothing new for Ireland.

This will be the team's ninth time, and they have lost five of them — including against France ahead of the 2010 World Cup when Thierry Henry clearly handled the ball in the build-up to the crucial goal.

The first leg will be in Denmark on Saturday. Ireland will host the second leg on Tuesday.

Ireland has effectively already won one playoff—by beating Wales 1-0 in its final qualifier—and will likely rely on the counterattacking tactics that worked so well in Cardiff.

While there are no real stars in the Ireland team, Denmark has a standout in Christian Eriksen—one of European soccer's best playmakers over the past few years at Tottenham.

AP

Australian soccer players control balls during a training session at the Francisco Morazan Stadium in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017. Australia will face Honduras for the first leg of the World Cup playoff on Friday.

The Danes' 4-0 win over Poland in group play highlights their potential.

Australia vs Honduras

This is the scenario Australia aimed to avoid when it switched from Oceania to the Asian Football Confederation after the 2006 World Cup: A last-ditch intercontinental playoff in the Americas for a spot at soccer's marquee event.

Australian players traveled from three continents to assemble in Honduras this week to prepare for Friday's first leg. The return match will be in Australia on Wednesday.

It was a similar scenario when the Australians played Uruguay for a place at the 2006 tournament. Uruguay won 1-0 in Montevideo, and Australia leveled it up with a 1-0 win in Sydney before advancing 4-2 on penalties. It ended a long drought for the Socceroos, who had failed to advance from the last playoff stage in 1986 (against Scotland), in 1994 (against Argentina), in 1998 (against Iran), and in 2002 (against Uruguay).

New Zealand vs Peru

New Zealand will return to the scene of one of its greatest triumphs when it hosts Peru on Saturday.

In 2009, New Zealand beat Bahrain 1-0 in front of a crowd of 35,000 at the Wellington Regional Stadium to qualify for the World Cup for the second time. It had previously qualified in 1982, the same year in which Peru made its last World Cup appearance.

The return leg will be in Peru on Wednesday.

Rory Fallon, who scored New Zealand's winning goal in that match eight years ago, has been recalled to the All Whites after a one-year absence. He is currently playing for Dorchester in the seventh tier of English soccer. That win over Bahrain briefly put soccer center-stage in a rugby-mad country and Saturday's match will likely do so again. The match is a sellout.

Peru, ranked No. 10, starts as the overwhelming favorite against 122nd-ranked New Zealand.

Africa

Africa's last three World Cup places will be decided on the final group games in qualifying, when Ivory Coast could miss out and Congo could qualify for the first time since 1974.

Two of the five groups are settled, with Nigeria and Egypt already through.

Tunisia and Congo will tussle for a place from Group A. Tunisia has a three-point advantage, so Congo needs to beat Guinea and hope Tunisia loses at home to Libya. If that happens, the World Cup place will go to the team with the best goal difference.

Morocco and Ivory Coast face a straight shootout in Group C when Morocco travels to Abidjan. Ivory Coast must win to sneak through to the World Cup and deny former coach Herve Renard, now with Morocco.

Senegal can seal its place on Friday in a contentious qualifier against South Africa, a game ordered by FIFA to be played again because of match-fixing by the referee. Senegal lost the initial game but if it wins on its second chance, it'll be through to the World Cup.

That will lead to serious discontent from the other teams. Burkina Faso, hoping to go to the World Cup for the first time, has already appealed against FIFA's decision.

Celtics beat Lakers for 10th straight win

BOSTON (AP)—The Celtics are piling up injuries almost as quickly as they are victories this season.

Aron Baynes matched his career high with 21 points, Kyrie Irving scored 19 and Boston overcame injuries to Al Horford and Jayson Tatum to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 107-96 on Wednesday night for their 10th straight win.

Baynes also had eight rebounds and three assists, and Boston improved to 10-2 even as Horford sat out after being placed in concussion protocol earlier in the day. The Celtics then lost rookie forward Tatum late in the second quarter, when he went to the locker room with a sore right ankle.

Coach Brad Stevens said Tatum had X-rays and was fitted with a walking boot as a precaution. He will be reexamined on Thursday.

It's yet another blow for a team that lost Gordon Hayward for the season after a gruesome leg injury on opening night.

"Until we have only four left, I guess we're just gonna keep playing," Stevens said.

Boston led by 20 in the second quarter before letting the lead shrink to two in the third. Los Angeles then struggled down the stretch, shooting 5 of 18 from the field with six turnovers in the final period.

Brandon Ingram and Jordan Clarkson led the Lakers with 18 points apiece. Julius Randle had 16 points and 12 rebounds.

Celtics fans gave rookie Lonzo Ball an icy welcome in his first trip to TD Garden. They booed the No. 2 overall pick throughout the night whenever he touched the ball. He finished with nine points, six assists and five rebounds, making just 4 of 15 from the field.

With Tatum sidelined in the second half, Boston struggled defensively, and the Lakers exploited the paint for several easy baskets.

"They hit us in the mouth and we were kind of shocked," Kyle Kuzma said. "The second quarter and the second half we fought back."

Irving also got banged up and had his right leg examined by trainers between the third and fourth quarters. He came back with just over six minutes to play and immediately made an impact, scoring back-to-back baskets to push Boston's lead back to 100-90.

The Celtics led by 48-28 in the second quarter but were outscored 24-13 over the final 6:51 of the half to let the Lakers back into the game.

Meanwhile,

Celtics forward Marcus Morris thinks fans should ease up on Ball.

"He's a good kid—it's his dad," Morris said. "He's got a big mouth, everybody knows it. ... He has a long time to do this. He's a young guy. It kind of sucks that he's gotta go everywhere and they just boo him and boo him and boo him. He's just a regular player."

Ball said he didn't take offense to it.

AP

Boston Celtics guard Kyrie Irving (11) drives between Los Angeles Lakers' Lonzo Ball (2) and Brook Lopez during the fourth quarter of Boston's 107-96 win in an NBA basketball game in Boston on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2017.

"They're home. I'd boo too if I was a fan," he said.

In related news, Lakers coach Luke Walton said this generation of players views the Celtics-Lakers rivalry differently than those around for the 1980s matchups.

"I think some of them get it, more than others," he said. "Guys like Lonzo that grew up in LA, I think if you grew up in either one of these cities, you're probably pretty well schooled on the rivalry. For some of these young guys, they probably don't know much about it."

Celtics fans chanted "Beat LA!" after Walton was whistled for a technical foul in the third quarter.

Warriors 125, Timberwolves 101

Klay Thompson scored 28 points with six 3-pointers, Stephen Curry had 22 points, eight assists and eight rebounds, and the Golden State Warriors beat the Minnesota Timberwolves for their fifth straight win.

Even without injured Kevin Durant, the defending champs began to look like their dominant old selves.

Draymond Green posted another all-round balanced performance with seven points, six rebounds, six assists and two blocks for the Warriors, who played without NBA Finals MVP Durant as he nursed a bruised left thigh.

Andre Iguodala started in place of Durant, and the 2015 Finals MVP scored a season-high 11 points. The Warriors notched a season-best quarter with 44 points in the third to pull away after leading 51-50 at halftime.

Andrew Wiggins scored 17 points and Karl-Anthony Towns had 16 points and 12 rebounds as the Timberwolves had their five-game winning streak snapped.

This marked the first regular-season matchup between the teams after they played a pair of exhibition games in China last month.

It's the first time the teams faced off each atop their respective divisions. Only three times previously had they played both with records of .500 or above.

Thompson shot 11 for 20 overall and 6 of 12 from long range. Omri Casspi added 13 points, three blocks and two steals.

Golden State had to overcome another cold start on offense, shooting 8 for 22 in the first quarter—4 of 10 on 3s. Two days earlier in a win against Miami, the Warriors shot 36.8 percent and 11 of 32 from beyond the arc.

Pistons 114, Pacers 97

In Detroit, Tobias Harris scored 23 points and first-place Detroit won for the sixth time in seven games, beating Indiana.

Andre Drummond added 14 points and 21 rebounds for the Pistons. They lead Cleveland by three games in the Central Division. Indiana lost its fourth straight.

Victor Oladipo led the Pacers with 21 points, but Indiana has allowed at least 100 points in 10 of 12 games this season. The Pacers were without injured big man Domantas Sabonis (bruised right calf).

Magic 112, Knicks 99

In Orlando, Nikola Vucevic scored 24 points and Evan Fournier added 23 to help Orlando beat New York.

Jonathon Simmons scored 15 of his 16 points in the second half. He had 11 straight points early in the fourth quarter to push the Magic's lead back to double figures.

The Magic, benefiting from the return of starting point guard Elfrid Payton, snapped a two-game losing streak. New York, playing without scoring Kristaps Porzingis (ankle and elbow injuries), had its three-game winning streak come to an end. Tim Hardaway Jr. led New York with 26 points.

Heat 126, Suns 115

In Phoenix, former Phoenix guard Goran Dragic scored a season-high 29 points in the Miami Heat's 126-115 victory over the Suns on Wednesday night.

The Heat made 12 3-pointers, shot 53.1 percent overall and never trailed. Hassan Whiteside added 23 points, 10 rebounds and four blocked shots for Miami.

Devin Booker led Phoenix with 30 points. The Suns have lost four straight.

Lonzo: No word from LiAngelo amid tough situation in China

BOSTON (AP)—Lonzo Ball says he has not spoken with his younger brother LiAngelo since he and two other UCLA basketball players were reportedly involved in a shoplifting incident Tuesday in China.

"I haven't talked to him yet," Lonzo Ball said Wednesday night after his Los Angeles Lakers lost to the Boston Celtics. "Whenever I talk to him, I'll find out more."

Pac-12 Conference Commissioner Larry Scott issued a statement Tuesday night saying that UCLA basketball players were "involved in a situation" in China, with police being summoned to the team's hotel to investigate the matter.

"UCLA is cooperating fully with local authorities," Scott said.

Citing a person close to the situation, the Los Angeles Times reported that freshmen Ball, Cody Riley and Jalen Hill were involved in a shoplifting incident. Lonzo Ball starred at UCLA last season and is now a rookie with the Lakers. His father, LaVar Ball, is also in China and told ESPN that he was "going to wait until I get more intel on what's going on" before commenting.

UCLA coach Steve Alford said Tuesday he will sit the three players for Saturday's game against Georgia Tech in Shanghai.

Police in Hangzhou did not respond to telephone calls from The Associated Press for details.

Scott did not elaborate on what occurred and said the league was directing all inquiries about the specifics of the matter to UCLA.

Olympic Club gets PGA Championship and Ryder Cup

CALIFORNIA (AP)—The Olympic Club in San Francisco is leaving its U.S. Open heritage to host the PGA Championship in 2028 and the Ryder Cup in 2032.

The announcement Wednesday adds to the growing list of major golf events on the West Coast, which typically have stronger television ratings because they can be shown in prime time on the East Coast.

The PGA Championship also is scheduled for Harding Park in 2020.

The U.S. Open will be held four times in California over the next 10 years—twice at Pebble Beach, once at Torrey Pines and once at Los Angeles Country Club.

"For us, it has been a strategic priority to bring more of our events to the West Coast," Pete Bevacqua, the PGA of America's chief executive officer, said in a telephone interview. "It's no secret these West Coast events perform strongly in television ratings being able to show them in prime time."

Former San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds brought in the Wanamaker Trophy during a press conference at Olympic Club. Bonds was part of the gallery watching Tiger Woods when the Presidents Cup was at Harding Park in 2009.

It was the first in a series of announcements over the next month that fills out the PGA of America's schedule for its biggest events over the next decade.

The PGA Championship still has openings for 2024 through 2027, with Southern Hills in Tulsa, Oklahoma, taking one of those spots. A return to Valhalla Golf Club in Kentucky also is expected, along with a return to Quail Hollow in North Carolina and possibly Aronimink outside Philadelphia.

The Ryder Cup goes to Whistling Straits in 2020 and Bethpage Black in 2024, which leaves a vacancy for 2028.

Bevacqua said the PGA of America prefers to have two events (PGA Championship and Ryder Cup) within four years of each other to build energy in the city. Bethpage and Whistling Straits are hosting both events five years apart.

Boleros tame Bears to stay undefeated

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

JON PEREZ
Boleros, left, and Papa Bears players exchange high fives after their game in the Masters division of the Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The Boleros used a 10-run first inning in cruising to a 19-6 victory over the Papa Bears in one of two shortened matches in the Masters division of the Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

It was the Boleros' sixth straight win, while the Bears absorbed their first loss in six games to remain at the bottom of the standings.

Mike Guerrero was perfect at the plate for the Boleros, going 3-for-3 and scoring three times. He also had two RBIs and two triples, including a two-RBI triple in that 10-run surge.

Alvin Tarope went 2-for-2 with two runs and two RBIs, while Gus Pangelinan batted 2-for-3 with two runs, a double, and two RBIs.

Dave Kapileo was tagged with two earned runs on two hits while walking three batters and striking out another in two innings. Steve Igisaiar closed out for the Boleros as he gave up one hit, four runs (two earned), and one walk.

The SBL played back-to-back Masters games last Wednesday to offset the canceled and rained-out matches last month. They followed a two-hour time limit with the match automatically ending even if the trailing team is about to bat. The Boleros-Bears match lasted only three innings with the latter choosing to call it a game after one of their players suffered an injury.

IPI 9, GSM 7

In the first game, IPI pitcher Mel Sakisat threw four complete innings and surrendered three earned runs on four hits against GSM while retiring four batters and walking two more in the shortened match.

IPI is now in second place with a 4-1 slate, while GSM is at fourth with its 1-4 mark. IPI and GSM played for four and 1/2 innings and the game was stopped due to the two-hour time limit.

Joe Torres went 2-for-4 with two runs and two RBIs, while Robert Repeki went 2-for-3 and scored three times. Ralph Yumul also went 2-for-3, making two singles.

Bill Camacho started for GSM and struck out six with one walk, but gave up four earned runs on nine hits. Walter Macaranas relieved him at the top of the fifth, allowing one earned run on one hit with a walk and two strikeouts.

Kanoa-2, Shirley's nose out foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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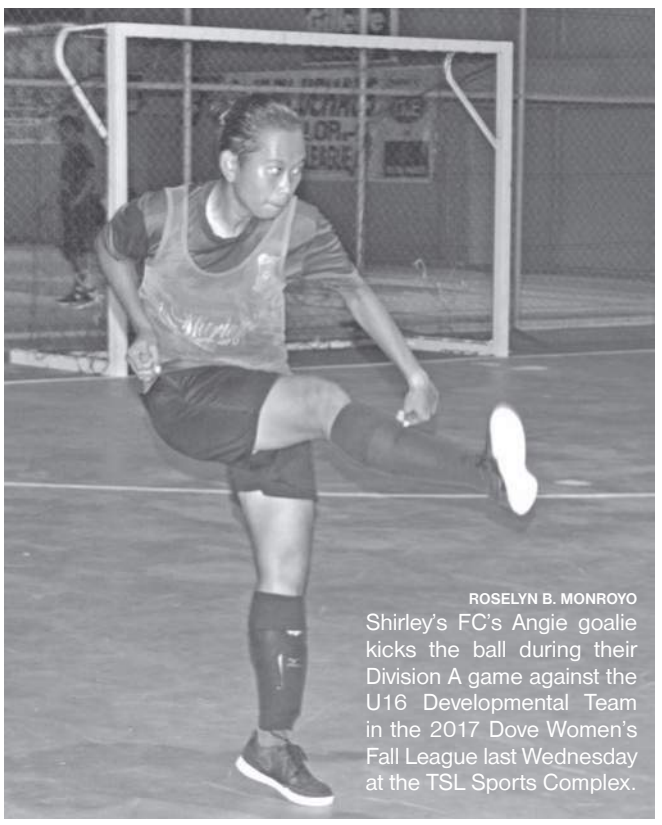
REPORTER



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shirley's FC's Angie goalie kicks the ball during their Division A game against the U16 Developmental Team in the 2017 Dove Women's Fall League last Wednesday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Dove Kanoa Football Club-2 and Shirley's prevailed in the final set of elimination round games in the 2017 Dove Women's Fall League last Wednesday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Kanoa-2 edged out Paire FC, 8-6, to top Division A. Irish Pagarao scored four goals, while Britanny Wally, Gillian Villlagomez, Krizel Tuazon, and Janelle Chognaki added one goal apiece for Kanoa-2, which finished the regular season with a 7-1-0 win-draw-loss record.

Paire, which settled for second place with its 6-1-1 mark, drew three goals from Guine Borja and one each from Jerlyn Castillo, Bernadette Horey, and Lyka Sally.

In the other Division A game, Shirley's FC nipped the U16 Developmental Team, 2-1. Marielle Gariguez and Diana Maniacop knocked in the pair of goals for Shirley's, while Therize Millare handed the U16 team its lone goal in the match.

Shirley's finished the regular season at fourth place with its 2-0-6 slate, while the U16 squad was ranked last after holding a 1-0-7 mark. Kanoa-1 completed the team standings and had a third-best 3-0-5 card.

Kanoa 1 and 2, Shirley's and Paire advanced to the playoffs, which will begin next week. Kanoa-2 will take on Shirley's in the first semis match on Nov. 15, while Paire will face Kanoa-1 in the second game.

Meanwhile, MY Pros downed Kanoa, 3-1, in the lone Division B game last Wednesday.

Natalie Hill posted two goals for MY Pros, while Samantha Babauta scored the other one. Kanoa made it to the board off an own goal. MY Pros finished the regular season with a 4-2-3 slate, while Kanoa was winless with its 0-1-8 card.

All four squads in Division B are moving into the playoffs with Shirley's facing MY Pros in the second game on Nov. 13 and Paire battling Kanoa in the first match.

KANOA-1

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2pm. Kanoa-1 will need only a draw to secure the championship, while MP United must win this weekend's game to claim the division crown. Kanoa-1 has a slight edge against MP United going into their crucial second meeting, as the former eked out a 5-4 victory in their first duel this Fall season.

Meanwhile, TanHoldings joined MP United and Kanoa-1 in the win column last Saturday after easing past Kanoa-2, 7-3.

Angelo Pulido starred in TanHoldings' triumph after scoring three goals, while Anthony Bergancia had a pair, and Ariel Narvaez and Mark Joseph Roque chipped in one apiece.

TanHoldings kept the No. 3 spot in the team standings with its 4-1-4 record, while Kanoa-2 is at the bottom with its 1-0-8 mark. TanHoldings will close out the season against Paire, while Kanoa-2 will play Matansa in its last game.

GREEN

From Page 36

close win over Spigen in the second match, 83-79.

The cellar dwellers Green Archers held Spigen (5-5) scoreless for three minutes and change in the homestretch and went 6-for-6 from the foul line in the final minute to gain their first victory in 10 games. Danny Danipog hit 4-for-4 from the stripe, while Patrick Rotap added a pair to end the Green Archers' losing skid.

Frank Ferrer also helped the Green Archers' cause after scoring a game-high 21 points, including the fastbreak basket that put his team on top, 77-76, with a little over a minute left in the game. Earlier, Bruce Berline's point-blanked shot off Adrian Flores' feed gave Spigen its last taste of the lead, 76-75.

Spigen then failed to widen the gap, as it either turned the ball over or missed their attempts. One of those miscues—Berline failing to receive a pass from Mike Umali after Bart Demapan reached in and tapped the ball away—paved the way for a Ferrer fastbreak shot and handed the driver's seat to the Green Archers.

Another Spigen muffed attempt returned possession to the Green Archers and Danipog capitalized off a preemptive foul from Flores by making the two charities. Now down by 3, 79-76, Spigen called its last time out in the final 14 seconds of the match. When the game resumed, Gerald Aniciete took a triple and missed badly, as the ball hit nothing but air.

Rotap picked up the ball and was quickly fouled by Ferdie Tobias. Rotap then calmly sank the pair of free throws to up their lead to 5, 81-76. A triple from Umali ended Spigen's long silence and somehow kept the team in the game, 5 seconds left on the clock. However, Danipog knocked in two more free throws on the other end to seal it for the Green Archers.

Despite the win, the Green Archers are out of the playoffs, while Spigen's chances to advance to the next round depends on the results of its last game and the remaining matches of Green Minded, Team Sawi (4-4), and Empe Light (3-6). Only the Top 8 teams after the elimination will earn playoff slots and four seats have been taken.

Vendetta, which got its second straight win, has been eliminated too and is just trying to play a spoiler role for teams hoping to move into the playoffs.

First Game

Vendetta 75— Pangelinan 21, Libuw 16, Tenorio 16, Castro 13, Sablan 7.

Green Minded 71 — Barrios 22, Sanros 22, Itaas 12, Omampo 9, Vergara 4.

Scoring by quarters: 16-21, 33-39, 46-52, 75-71.

Second Game

Green Archers 83 — Danipog 25, Ferrer 21, Rotap 12, Demapan 10, Enriquez 6, Mendiola 5, Pestillos 1.

Spigen 79 — Umali 16, Berline 14, Gani 11, Flores 7, Marilla 8, Tobias 6, Tibayan 6.

Scoring by quarters: 22-24, 37-48, 60-63, 83-79.

SAIPAN

From Page 36

some off-island events.

"This is the first time that Saipan will be hosting the SPBC. Guam has hosted it before but it was not held there in 20 some years now. Saipan's hosting would help build the sport here in the CNMI," said Davis.

Jerome Iakopo, the cousin of bodybuilder and Northern Marianas Rugby Union president Stanley Iakopo, won a silver medal when Guam hosted the SPBC. Lori Bachman took the gold in the women's division in 1996.

The SBPC will give more Saipan bodybuilders a chance to join a high-level competition and follow the footsteps of Iakopo and Bachman and Davis and Dr. John Joyner, who both participated in the Mr. Universe held in Guam.

"This is an opportunity for CNMI bodybuilders to step up. The SPBC is a prestigious event. This is their chance to compete in an international tournament without going off-island. We have more than three years to prepare," he added.

The SPBF has nine other member nations in American Samoa, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Tahiti, Guam, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, and Samoa aside from the CNMI and the Solomon Islands.

Aldan-Pierce completes Italy Bike & Barge Tour

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Biking enthusiast Marian Aldan-Pierce joined over 20 women from four countries in completing Woman's Tour' Italy Bike & Barge Tour last month.

"The Tour is leisure biking with like-minded women and a local expert, stopping at historical towns for tours, enjoying the sights, sounds, and taste of where we are at the moment. I was the lone traveler from Saipan. Our tour consisted of 20 women from all over the U.S., Panama, three from Canada. We slept on the barge at night and biked during the day," Aldan-Pierce said.

The tour, which started last Sept. 29 and ended last Oct. 6 brought Aldan-Pierce and company to Giudecca Island in Venice, Lido, Chioggia, Ferrara, and Mantua with each bike ride having a distance of between 18 and 32 miles.

"I was in awe of all the churches we visited—beautiful, very ornate, and lovingly cared for. I swear all Italians bike, young kids, teenagers, working men/women, Italians in their 70s/80s—in full biking gear. Truly amazing and awe inspiring," the DFS Saipan president said.

"The tour featured a lot of bridges and riverside biking, so preparation was not hard. As long as one is able to bike at least five miles without stopping, it is totally doable. I am acrophobic (fear of heights) and we had to cross a bridge that was quite high and long. That was tough, but the women on the tour were very supportive and some walked with me rather than get on their bikes," she added

After conquering Italy Bike & Barge, Aldan-Pierce will get ready for her next journey—the France Bike 'N Barge in September and will take participants from Avignon to Aigues-Mortes. The Marianas Visitors Authority board chair also hopes to join a bike tour in Germany.

"High on my bucket list is the 62 miles of paved bike path in Germany which opened in 2015. The Radschnellweg (fast bike path) RS1 runs between the cities of Duisburg and Hamm, passing through eight other cities along the way," Aldan-Pierce said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marian Aldan-Pierce, standing third left, poses with other participants in last month's Woman's Tour' Italy Bike & Barge Tour.

Passion and advocacy

At 63 and despite being one of the oldest bikers on Saipan, there's no stopping Aldan-Pierce from biking, as she wanted to inspire people, especially women in her age range, to explore and be active.

"There is so much to discover outside our little island and it's really okay to go out and explore on your own. How old you are should not hold you back. I met a 73-year-old woman in the Italy tour and she did a 58-day tour when she turned 69 and a 54-day tour when she turned 70. Her biking group in California rides 3x per week, about 50-60 miles/day. We do that in three weeks! She is quite an inspiration," said Aldan-Pierce, whose passion for biking started through a dare and she's thankful she accepted the challenge.

"It started on a dare by Dr. Norma Ada about six years ago …a dare to do the Hell of the Marianas. So we did. P4 (Power of 4) was our team name and it consisted of me, Esther Ada, Juanita Fajardo and Sheryl Camacho. We've been biking ever since. While the other ladies have two or more HOMs under their belts, I did only one. Since then, we have successfully encouraged more DFS women to start biking. I have had three surgeries on my knees. Biking has low to no impact on knees, so it's the perfect, almost a painless exercise for me," she said.

Her biking group does both road and MTB, but prefers the former. She also wishes Saipan roads are free from loose dogs and bike lanes will be followed for the safety of all.

"We are very leery of trail biking due to the fact that there are no orthopedic doctors on island. We usually start at the Smiling Cove Marina and head north of Marpi or south beyond the airport. Our biggest challenge are the loose boonie dogs. They are a nuisance and a danger to bikers and runners. While we appreciate the need to protect one's home, we need to do this within the boundaries of our properties, not beyond that," she said.

"Another growing challenge are the tourists driving rental cars. They need to be educated on our laws and to be very cognizant of the fact that there are bikers, runners, and walkers on the road daily. They have to pay attention while driving, especially in Marpi very early in the mornings and all weekend. With the growing number of bikers we have locally, we should insist that all new roads have dedicated bike lanes. We should lobby to have the bike lane restored on Beach Road and where there's none, have one built. With the help of the Legislature several years ago, we had the 3-feet law enacted," the MVA chair added.

Biker themselves should also be responsible when on the road.

"My pet peeves are bikers without helmets on the main roads, those who ride without lights (front and rear), and those riding against traffic. Bikes are treated as vehicles on the road, so all bikers must ride with traffic, not against it, and must obey all traffic rules, like stopping at intersections when the light turns red," Aldan-Pierce said.

X-Country finals at SCC golf course

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

All boys and girls qualifiers in the six age divisions after the three legs of Northern Marianas Athletics' 2017 All Schools Cross Country Series will head down to the Saipan Country Club in Chalan Lao Lao in Middle Road for the finals tomorrow.

Participants must be at the golf course next to McDonald's Middle Road by 6:30am for the check in, while the final briefing by competition director Elias Rangamar will be held before the start time at 7am. Races will end 9am, while the awards ceremony for the Top 3 in the Under-7, U9, U11, U13, U15, U18 divisions will take place after the competition.

The Saipan Vegas Resort, which owns and operates the nine-hole SCC golf course, has agreed to allow the NMA to use their facility for the finale of the cross country race. The Saipan Vegas Resort and the SCC golf course management will be closing the facility in the morning to give way to the event.

Agape Christian School, Dandan Middle School, Eucon International School, Hopwood Middle School, Marianas High School, Mt. Carmel School, Saipan Community School, Saipan International School, San Vicente Elementary School, and William S. Reyes Elementary School students made up the qualifiers in the final. All qualifiers were finishers in the three legs of the annual event held at the Airport field.

The U18 age group in the boys and girls divisions will be an interesting race with ACS' Jonathan Xiong and Ella Zhang expected to face stiff opposition from the SIS pair of Alex Park and Tania Tan.

KFAS wins season debut in M-League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Korean Football Association on Saipan finally played its first game in the Fall season of the M-League and pulled off a 5-4 victory over the CNMI Women's National Team last Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Edwin Kim did it all for KFAS's offense, scoring five goals with his last two in the second half giving the squad the insurance after WNT attempted a comeback. Kim registered goals in the 23rd, 34th, and 43rd minute to hand KFAS a 3-1 halftime edge in their Division B game.

Sarah Allen made the lone goal for WNT in the sixth minute and her second in the 56th moved the squad within one. Another shot from Kim in the 66th minute gave KFAS more breathing room, but WNT refused to give up when Angie Ito scored in the 74th.

Less than a minute after WNT threatened KFAS, Kim came to his team's rescue with his fifth goal. Irish Pagarao closed out the scoring with her conversion in the 77th minute and KFAS hung in there to win its season debut. KFAS played only its first game this Fall, as most of its players were off-island.

In the other Division B tiff, Matansa is undefeated in four games after a 4-0 triumph Shirley's FC.

Anamul Haque, Daniel Jay Duenas, Young Ha Hwang, and Kamrul Kamrul scored for Matansa.

DIVISION A
Teen Ayuyus 1, Kanoa 0

The Teen Ayuyus are also unscathed after four games following a close victory over Kanoa at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Sunjoon Tenorio made the lone goal in the second game in Division A to keep the Teen Ayuyus on top of the team standings in the seven-squad field.

TanHoldings 4, MP United 1

TanHoldings duplicated the Teen Ayuyus' 4-0-0 win-draw-loss record after beating MP United in the last game in the division.

Mareko Tekopua, Jersh Angeles, Ryan Relucio, and Kirro Batino scored in the fourth, 35th, 63rd, and 78th minute for TanHoldings, while MP United's only goal came from Byong Ha Kim's conversion in the fifth.

Sun Palace 5, Paire 1

Sun Palace notched its second victory in three games after downing the winless Paire.

Daniel Agulto delivered for Sun Palace as he bagged three goals, logging his first in the 40th minute and the last two in the 75th and 80th. Joe Miller recorded the two other goals for Sun Palace and he did it in a span of eight minutes, as he lit up the board in the 47th and 55th minute.

Bruce Berline handed Paire its lone goal in the 25th minute.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Korean Football Association on Saipan's Edwin Kim, left, tries to get away from two Women's National Team defenders during the first half of their Division B game in the M-League last Sunday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Celtics beat Lakers for 10th straight win

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Kanoa-1 vs MPU for U12 title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club-1 and MP United FC won their penultimate games in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday, making their duel this weekend highly exciting as the co-ed U12 division championship will be on the line.

Kanoa-1 defeated Paire FC, 4-1, behind the goals of Joe Emil Antonio, Andrew Sablan, Daniel Mar Pablo, and Sean Gil in the first, 11th, 20th, and 38th minute, respectively. Dylan Mister drilled the lone goal for Paire in the 45th minute. With the easy victory, Kanoa-1 retained the top spot in the six-team field as it improved to an 8-0-1 win-draw-loss record.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kanoa Football Club-1's Lester Bata, right, gets ready on defense, as his teammate Daniel Mar Pablo, third left, and Paire's Dylan Mister, second left, fight for possession during the second half of their co-ed U12 division game in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field. Also in the photo is Paire's Miles Timmons.

However, MP United is lurking behind Kanoa-1, as the former gained a 7-1-1mark after downing Matansa FC at the Hopwood Middle School Field, 5-3.

Andrew Chung towed MP United to the important win as he posted a hat-trick. He delivered the three goals in succession, scoring in the 25th, 26th, and 43rd minute. Richard Castro and Garrett Weaver added one goal each to keep MP United in the race for the division championship.

MP United and Kanoa-1 will collide in the title-deciding match at

See KANOA-1 on Page 34

Saipan to host South Pacific bodybuilding event

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan will be hosting the 2021 South Pacific Bodybuilding Championships after winning the rights during last month's competition and congress in Honiara, the Solomon Islands.

CNMI Bodybuilding Federation president John H. Davis said Saipan's hosting of the annual event was announced by the South Pacific Bodybuilding Federation. The group also informed its members on Fiji's hosting of next year's championships, while the 2019 and 2020 editions will be a toss-up between Tonga and American Samoa.

The SPBF, which is recognized by the Pacific Games Council and the International Bodybuilding Federation, also discussed the competition rules for the coming years during the five-day congress.

Davis said that Saipan's hosting of the SPBC would be a big boost to the sport in the CNMI, especially now that a number of individuals have already competed locally and in

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's John Davis, sixth right, joins other members of the South Pacific Bodybuilding Federation for a group photo after attending the SPBF Congress last month in Honiara, the Solomon Islands.

Green Archers, Vendetta stun opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Upset was the theme in last Wednesday's pair of games in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium as the Green Archers and Vendetta defeated their higher-ranked foes.

Vendetta edged Green Minded in the first game, 75-71, while the Green Archers eked out a similar

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Green Archers' Danny Danipog, left, and Spigen's Ferdie Tobias, center, battle for the rebound, while the latter's teammate Adrian Flores stays close in the play during the fourth quarter of their game in the IT&E-sponsored Ali'i Blue Haus caging last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.